

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of an Examination of the Columbia)
County Jail To Determine the Maximum Number of) Order No. 56 -2024
Adults In Custody)

WHEREAS, in 2014, due to fiscal and operational constraints, the Board of County Commissioners instituted examination of the Columbia County Jail pursuant to ORS 169.042 by Order No. 6-2014, for the purpose of obtaining a recommendation regarding the maximum number of adults in custody that should be held in the facility; and

WHEREAS, the examination considered each of the factors set forth in ORS 169.042 and recommended that due to funding constraints and changes in federal operations, it was not feasible to continue to house adults in custody in the Columbia County Jail in a manner that would be consistent with constitutional standards, be safe for employees, visitors and adults in custody, provide adequate programs and be efficient and effective; and

WHEREAS, the examiners recommended that the Board declare an emergency, and establish the maximum number of adults in custody that may be held in the Columbia County Jail at "0" (zero); and

WHEREAS, in May, 2014, a Jail operating levy was approved by the Columbia County electorate; and

WHEREAS, the Jail operating levy allowed the Columbia County Sheriff to gradually staff the Jail to levels that make it possible to house adults in custody in a manner consistent with constitutional standards, and safety and security of the Jail; and

WHEREAS, the operating levy was renewed for a term of four years at the November 2016, general election, and was renewed again at the November 2020, general election; and

WHEREAS, the Jail operating levy funding will end in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, significantly limiting the funding available to operate the Jail; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 169.042, a new examination of the Jail's maximum capacity should be instituted for the purpose of obtaining a recommendation regarding the maximum number of adults in custody held in the facility given the current level of funding;

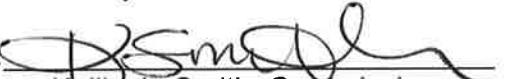
NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered as follows:

1. Pursuant to ORS 169.042, the Board of Commissioners hereby institutes an examination of the County Jail for the purpose of obtaining an updated recommendation regarding the maximum number of adults in custody that should be held in the facility. The recommendation shall be based on consideration of the advice of the District Attorney, County Counsel and Sheriff concerning prevailing constitutional standards relating to conditions of incarceration, design capacity of the Jail; the physical condition of the Jail; and the programs provided to adults in custody.
2. A recommendation shall be prepared and provided to the Board of County Commissioners by January 30, 2025.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Casey Garrett, Chair

By: 
Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: 
Office of County Counsel