

General Discussion: January 19, 2016

9:00 a.m. – BCC Conference Room

Commissioners Cheryl Walker, Keith Heck, and Simon G. Hare; Linda McElmurry, Recorder

Chair Cheryl Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Marijuana Production in Industrial Zone (Heck)

Commissioner Heck asked for an update on progress being made on the RLDC interpretation by Planning. After a short discussion with Wally Hicks, Legal Counsel, the Board agreed a Board Order was needed to clarify their intent and could be enacted before the Ordinance began its process through the Rural Planning Commission. Wally said he would start on it immediately.

2. Lottery Local Control Measure or Citizen Initiative (Walker)

Commissioner Walker said the Board has been requested to write a letter of support for local lottery control. The Board agreed they supported the initiative. Commissioner Hare suggested they form a coalition of counties in favor and spearhead the advocacy. Commissioner Walker will follow up on the matter.

3. IP28 Corporate Minimum Tax (Walker)

Commissioner Walker said the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce would like the Board to send a letter of opposition to the legislature. She will coordinate with AOC to see if they have a position.

Commissioner Hare suggested a letter of opposition on the minimum wage movement saying small businesses can't afford it. The Board agreed but felt they needed more information.

Commissioner Hare asked for an update on the Economic Development Plan with the City and was told they would be holding a workshop on February 2.

4. Other (ORS 192.640(1) “. . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”)

Commissioner Walker presented **Exhibit 1, Letter from NACo** which came in late Friday expressing support for S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act saying the deadline was tomorrow. The Board agreed to research the matter and sign individually.

Commissioner Heck said the Fire Chiefs Association wants to draft the fire standards to be put into an Ordinance and wants the Board to agree to allow them to. Commissioner Hare thought the Board was going to establish a governing element to draft them in a very structured, very official way. After a short discussion the Board agreed that Commissioner Hare would follow up with a Board Order directing the Association to draft up the standards.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 – Letter from NACo



Exhibit 1
General Disc
1-19-16

January 20, 2016

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives,

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), the only national organization that represents America's 3,069 county governments, **we write to express support for S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act**. Counties play a major role in our nation's criminal justice system, as we own 91 percent of American jails – which collectively house one-third of all incarcerated individuals in the country – and invest \$70 billion in criminal justice each year. Counties know firsthand the importance of reforming the criminal justice system, and we commend bipartisan efforts, like S. 2123, that aim to achieve these reforms.

NACo supports measures that aim to reduce sentencing disparity, eliminate unnecessary confinement, establish more rational and appropriate sentencing policies and lead to better management of limited correctional resources. We also support provisions in S. 2123 that would promote the expungement of certain juvenile offenses, prohibit juvenile solitary confinement except in limited circumstances, and increase the instances in which juveniles are eligible for parole. Further, we support pre-release reentry programs featured in S. 2123 that would help incarcerated individuals prepare to reintegrate back into society. These individuals return to their communities with complex health, education, housing and other needs, which, if not addressed, can increase their likelihood of returning to jail or prison. Reentry programs are integral to their successful reintegration into the community.

Of course, reentry programs are pivotal to formerly incarcerated individuals not only prior to their release from correctional facilities, but even more so after these individuals return to their communities. With this in mind, **we hope that you will give consideration and support to the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513/H.R. 3406)**, which would reauthorize and improve Second Chance Act programs that provide resources to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations to improve outcomes for individuals returning to communities. Specifically, the program improves the coordination of reentry services and policies at the state, tribal and local levels and funds demonstration grants, reentry courts, family-centered programs, mental health and addiction treatment and employment and mentoring services.

America's counties stand ready to work with Congress to achieve needed reforms to our nation's criminal justice system that will benefit communities across the nation. We commend you for your work on the Sentencing Reform Act and the Second Chance Reauthorization Act and look forward to working with you to advance these measures.

Sincerely,