

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR CURRY COUNTY
STATE OF OREGON**

**In the Matter of Declaring)
a Housing Emergency for)
Curry County)**

RESOLUTION NO. R2019-40

WHEREAS, State Planning Goal 10, *Housing*, requires urbanized, or urbanizable lands, be inventoried for adequate number of housing units. However, U.S. Census and other data show the need for housing units in Curry County is a severe issue. County Planning Goal 10 requires the county plan for land allocations to encourage a wide variety of safe and affordable housing; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Oregon Health Authority, only four other counties in the state have a higher homeless rate. For every 1,000 people in Curry County, 7.1 of them are homeless. In looking at children, only two counties have a higher rate than Curry County. The County's homeless student rate is 86.1 students per 1,000 enrolled students; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau reports 22,364 persons in the county, and 12,613 housing units; 430 have no bedroom, 60% of which are rentals; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 17% of the housing in the county has 'severe housing problems'. 'Severe housing problems' are defined as overcrowding, high housing costs, or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities; and,

WHEREAS, of all housing units in the county, 338 lack complete kitchen facilities, 95% of which are rentals, and, 82 lack complete plumbing, 61% of which are rentals; and,

WHEREAS, the median gross rent is \$856, the median mortgage \$1,413; median household income is \$42,519, but per capita the income is \$26,925 meaning a single person would spend 38% of their income on rent, or, 64% on a mortgage. Only 5,235 people are employed in the county; overall 16% of the residents fall below the poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, in Curry County 15.4% of the population are Veterans. These Veterans median income is below the state average, and substantially below the national average, with locally 2,891 Veterans being below the poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, Oregon building and safety codes became effective in 1974 and 475 of all housing units were built prior to state safety codes. The manufactured home rules changed in 1976 to ensure better quality and safety, and 22% of all mobile homes predate the 1976 code; and,

WHEREAS, the Curry County Assessor reports 3,881 mobile homes and manufactured homes in the county, 12% of which are assessed as below average condition with 27% of all mobile and manufactured homes having a value of less than \$10,000; and,

WHEREAS, with the assistance of AllCare, Advanced Health, Oregon Coast Community Action, United Way, Easter Seals, Coos-Curry Housing Authority, Department of Veteran Affairs and other local, state and federal agencies and foundations and charitable trusts, Curry County believes the infrastructure and resources necessary to secure housing to all families is not only an obtainable goal for Curry County, but for families within Curry County.

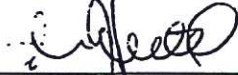
NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Curry County Commissioners, herein assembled, resolves to declare a housing emergency exists in Curry County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, monies be directed to ensuring an adequate number of housing units are created and made available to house all residents, with a particular focus on our children and families, and Veterans; Planning and development processes be revised to encourage development; and new programs be created to address the safety and adequacy of existing housing so every family has the option to be in a safe and healthy home. The Board of County Commissioners further resolves to request, by this resolution, that Governor Kate Brown declare a 24 month State of Emergency and consider Curry County an 'emergency area' as provided in ORS 401.165, and, provide assistance to help with the availability, adequacy, and affordability of housing in Curry County, Oregon, as well as suspend limiting rules, per ORS 401.168(2), which prevent housing options in the unincorporated areas of Curry County.


DATED this 14th day of August, 2019.

CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved as to form:



John Hutt
Curry County Legal Counsel



Christopher Paasch, Chair



Court Boice, Vice Chair 8-15-19

Opposed

Sue Gold, Commissioner