

Council Business Meeting

December 15, 2020

Agenda Item	Discussion of Council letter to Jackson County Board of Commissioners regarding Public Health recommendations	
From	Adam Hanks	Interim City Administrator
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SUMMARY

This agenda item was requested, consistent with Council rules, by Councilors Graham and Slattery. With brief dialog with Councilors Graham and Slattery, staff has drafted a sample intended to assist Council in their discussion and ultimate direction to staff.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

This agenda item directly relates to the initial declaration of emergency approved by Council on March 17, 2020 that Council has continued to review and authorize monthly.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Councilors Graham and Slattery can provide additional information as part of the Council discussion.

FISCAL IMPACTS

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

- 1) I move to direct the City Administrator and City Attorney to utilize the draft letter and the additional comments of Council to complete and deliver a final letter to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.
- 2) I move to direct the City Administrator and City Attorney to revise the draft letter based on Council input and bring the revised draft letter to Council as an agenda item at the next Council meeting.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Initial draft letter to Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Jackson County Board of Commissioners,

As our region continues to struggle through these extremely challenging times with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all levels of government continue to take on the task of protecting the health and well-being of the communities they represent and serve at a historically unprecedented scale. It is recognized that the different levels of government have varying levels of authority, scope and tools available to take on this task. It is further recognized that each governmental entity may view the crisis and their role in protecting the public with different perspectives, criteria and information.

The Council is acutely aware and continue to feel the effects of the economic impacts of the executive orders of Governor Brown and sincerely wish these impacts could be mitigated through increased federal support and aid. However, the measures put in place to mitigate the near crisis level capacity of our regional and state hospital system and to slow down the rapidly increasing infection rates in Jackson County are essential public health tools that need support and compliance to have a positive impacts for our community members and our healthcare systems.

The Ashland City Council, with support and agreement of Mayor John Stromberg, firmly support the expertise, work and guidance of our Jackson County Public Health officials and respectfully requests and encourages the Board of Commissioners to prioritize policies and actions that align with the recommendations of our regional public health officials as well as those of the Oregon Health Authority.

Furthermore, the City of Ashland, Mayor Stromberg and the Ashland City Council stand ready to assist the Board and all of our regional partners in supporting the Governor's executive orders and guidance from the OHA and Jackson County Public Health.

On behalf of the community of Ashland, we thank you for your dedication and diligent efforts in serving our region through this crisis as well as for your continued work in recovery efforts from the devastating Almeda and Obenchain fires.

