

April 17, 2020

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 E. 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

RE: Proposed Ordinance 20-03

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you today to urge your opposition to the proposed Ordinance 20-03, amending Lane County Code Chapter 9 to require Lane County lodgers to accept government vouchers or payment during an emergency. As presented, the intent of the Ordinance is to provide greater protection of a particularly vulnerable population in Lane County from the spread of COVID-19. The passage and subsequent enforcement of this amendment would attempt to address the concerns for the unhoused population but would also result in increased risks for hotel staff and guests. Passing this Ordinance creates a zero-sum game where you are trading the health and well-being of one segment of Lane County's population for that of another and has the potential to hinder the recovery of the already hard-hit hospitality industry in Lane County.

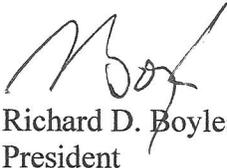
My concern is not regarding payment, rather it is the detriment to my current and future ability to staff our hotels and retain guests. While not every unhoused person is mentally ill or prone to behavioral issues, it is well documented that the homeless population has a higher incidence of these conditions. Hotel staff are not trained, nor are they expected to be trained, to deal with the potential issues of a population that, for whatever reason, may not be willing or capable of following the essential guidelines we have put in place to protect our staff and guests. For obvious economic reasons, we are operating at skeleton staff levels as it is - that leaves only law enforcement to intervene and manage these non-compliance issues. In the meantime, our staff and guests are at an increased risk to their health and physical well-being. It is not unrealistic to assume, given these circumstances, that it would become difficult to retain both staff and guests, the lifeblood of the hospitality industry, in present time or the weeks, months and potentially years down the road.

Given agreed upon pre-conditions are met, some hotels would be willing, on a voluntary basis to safely meet this need in our community. Pre-conditions may include a full facility rental, on-site, 24-hour management by trained professionals, and professional disinfecting of the facility at the end of use. To the extent that Lane County has a need to provide greater protections to the unhoused population, the County needs to identify the right lodging partner and commit to an agreement that makes business sense and addresses legitimate concerns for the safety and well-being of all parties. Legislatively forcing lodging owners to operate their businesses to the detriment of their staff and guests is not the solution to this problem.

Given the timing of the first and second readings of the Ordinance as currently scheduled, it appears procedurally unnecessary - more a decision based on optics rather than meeting the "immediate need" of the unhoused population. Public hearing on the Ordinance is currently scheduled for nearly three weeks from now - by which time, the River Avenue facility, unanimously approved for purchase by the Board earlier this month, should be available to meet the quarantine needs of the unhoused population in Lane County. Additional need for quarantine space for the unhoused population should be achieved through negotiated partnerships as outlined above, not by passing this Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns. I urge you to consider other avenues for meeting the quarantine needs of the unhoused population of Lane County and to not pass Ordinance 20-03. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Boyles
President



April 17, 2020

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 E. 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Re: Ordinance 20-03

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept this letter of opposition to the proposed Ordinance 20-03. ORLA and its members have and will continue to work together with Lane County in protecting the safety of our communities, especially its most vulnerable populations. We believe the proposed ordinance is unnecessary; the solutions to the problems it addresses already exist in working together. Finally, the timeline in which it will take to enact and enforce this ordinance will not meet the needs of those it is serving.

ORLA has been a conduit for communication between lodging operators and the County, and has been able to identify properties willing to serve the community's needs and connect them with County staff. The primary concern with the current proposal however is the safety of both employees and the population that will be housed. Hotel staff are not trained for the duties and responsibilities as outlined in proposed Ordinance 20-03; they are not medical or behavioral health providers who can sufficiently address the needs of patients. A similar ordinance in Multnomah County has provided lodging operations who house populations affected by COVID-19 with around the clock staff supervision, and has hired additional workers to do so. The availability of rooms and willingness of hoteliers to accept County payment at a reasonable rate is not a significant problem; providing adequate safety measures for COVID-19 patients is the major hurdle. Let us tackle those concerns together – not fracture the community spirit in these trying times by issuing additional mandates for struggling businesses.

Finally, the timing of two readings and public hearing will not meet the identified “immediate need.” When complete, the River Avenue facility will be an expansion of resources for support to those affected by COVID-19. Until then, we ask that in order to remedy the “immediate need,” we work together to address the concerns by hotels who have already agreed to provide rooms. We urge you to not pass Ordinance 20-03, and use the precious time and energy to take advantage of resources that have already been offered by your lodging partners in Lane County.

Sincerely,

Terry Hopkins

Membership Representative

Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association

8565 SW Salish Lane, Suite 120 | Wilsonville | Oregon 97070

P: 541.441.2219 | T: 800.462.0619 | F: 503.682.4455

Twitter: [@OregonRLA](https://twitter.com/OregonRLA) | Facebook: [OregonRLA](https://www.facebook.com/OregonRLA) | LinkedIn: [ORLA](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ORLA)

www.OregonRLA.org



April 20th, 2020

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 E. 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

RE: Lane County Proposed Ordinance 20-03

Oregon Commissioners,

On behalf of ALKO Hotels, I am strongly urging you oppose proposed Ordinance 20-03. On April 16th, 2020 an ordinance was proposed to amend Lane County Code Chapter 9 to “require Lane County lodgers to accept government vouchers or payments during an emergency.” The board of Health is requesting that “Lane Code Chapter 9 be revised to establish that no proprietor of a business providing transient lodging may refuse to accept government payment of a reasonable rate for transient lodging.”

This ordinance was proposed in an attempt to house patients awaiting COVID-19 test results or those testing positive for COVID-19. While the intentions are to help protect this unhoused population from further spreading the disease, the actual effect will not be netting any benefit because it is merely transferring the risk of infection to the hotel employees and its current guests. In addition to the introduction of COVID-19 to the hotel and motel businesses, it would also lengthen the recovery period for these businesses which are already desperately struggling to keep afloat during these difficult times.

The main issue here is that allowing these potentially infected individuals into our businesses would severely impact the amount of time it would take before we would be able to hire back the amount of employees we need to have, as well being as being able to receive guests who wish to stay in Lane County. Many of our employees are anxiously waiting to come back to work so they can support their families. Current economic situations have prevented us from keeping our entire staff and the increased exposure to those potentially infected would only increase that time. Furthermore, our employees are not trained or equipped to handle this population, whether it be the infection or some of their erratic behaviors that this particularly vulnerable population is documented to have.

In addition, the amount of time until our guests would think it’s safe to return to our property would increase dramatically. Our guests are already nervous to visit our properties and we are getting calls every day with them requesting to cancel their upcoming reservations. Forcing hotels to accept these populations that are suspected of COVID-19 paints a target on our backs signaling our future guests to avoid staying here. With the way our current situation is going, that could pan out to months or even years longer. The issue for us was never about payment or being fairly compensated, but rather the severe long-term effects this could have on our businesses and travel in Lane County itself.

Instead of forcing ordinances onto hotels and motels by making them serve this population, I suggest contacting hotels on a case by case basis and coming up with favorable terms that would benefit both parties. Some hotel’s location and design characteristics are better suited to handling these



potential COVID-19 patients. Exterior corridor properties provide a better solution to containing the sick population because they are able to easily section off segments of their property without exposing other guests to the same HVAC system and amenities that interior corridor properties share. Hotels with interior corridors would not be able to take in any outside guests without being a logistical nightmare and risking the safety of those guests. As a result, fair agreed upon conditions must be met with both parties such as renting the full facility, full staffing, and management offered by the health care providers. In addition, these properties that are willing to work with the community would need to be assured that the entire facility is able to be properly disinfected and cleared by the county so they can convince their guests to come back.

Forcing legislation onto hotel and motel owners is not the solution and will create more problems than it is trying to solve. I believe with proper communication and willingness to cooperate certain hotels would be willing to voluntarily help this potentially infected community.

With Regards,

Tina A. Patel

Managing Director at ALKO Hotels



Lane County Government **NEWS**



LaneCountyGovernment



LaneCountyGov



LaneCountyGov



www.LaneCountyOR.gov

For Immediate Release 4/16/2020

Lane County Board of Health to consider ordinance requiring hotels to accept government payments during an emergency

Contact: 541-682-1390

On April 21, 2020, the Lane County Board of Health* will consider Ordinance 20-03 in the matter of amending Lane Code Chapter 9 to require Lane County lodgers to accept government vouchers or payments during an emergency. April 21 is the first reading only.

The second reading and public hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Instructions for participation in the public hearing will be available at

https://lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/board_of_county_commissioners/meetings_notice.

The ordinance is being considered because there is an immediate need to provide motel and hotel rooms for unhoused individuals who need to be quarantined while awaiting COVID-19 test results or after a positive COVID-19 test. Some local hotels and motels have refused to accept these patients through direct County payment or in the form of a voucher for payment. The Board of Health requests that Lane Code Chapter 9 be revised to establish that no proprietor of a business providing transient lodging may refuse to accept government payment of a reasonable rate for transient lodging. This action will not change any of the other penalties, fines or fees already established. The proposed Lane County Board of Health (BOH) Ordinance will be effective and apply in both incorporated and unincorporated areas.

The potential health implications of not quarantining patients awaiting COVID-19 tests or patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 who are unable to shelter in their homes will result in further spread of COVID-19 resulting in increased burden on healthcare providers and hospitals and will result in more deaths in Lane County.

**The Lane County Board of Health is comprised of the five Lane County commissioners.*

###

From: [Craig Miller](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Cc: [BOZIEVICH Jay K](#); [FARR Pat M \(LC\)](#); [BERNEY Joe](#); [BUCH Heather H](#)
Subject: Hotels
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:20:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Board of Commissioners –

I am writing as a concerned citizen as regards the latest news I have read regarding the idea of the County placing the burden of housing the homeless (who are possibly either coronavirus positive or awaiting coronavirus test results). I insure approximately 110 hotels across the Country and I want to say that the fact it is even being considered shows just how far things have gone off the tracks. These are not only business owners, but they are private property owners. Im curious as to what power any County government has to force a private property owner to take anyone onto its property that it does not want to. You are seeking a solution to a problem that now be in a crisis situation in part because your body (along with other local governments) has failed to address the homeless problem for year.

This is a public health concern and should not be a burden any private property owner should even be asked to help with. It is so contrary to any logic. Have you considered having this population sleep on the floor of the County Courthouse or other County facilities in sleeping bags, or feeding them in your cafeteria. Probably not. There are thousands of government owned beds and bedrooms sitting unused in dorms at UO; have you contacted them? Those old facilities with basic necessities that are used to handling large volumes of people that may treat facilities hard, seem like a lot better option than hotels that have millions of dollars of PRIVATE investment poured into them.

Please rethink this thing and put a fork in it as soon as possible. And, while you're at it, please do whatever you must to get this local economy moving again. The damage being inflicted on your hundred of thousands of constituents, as well as the electorate that has placed you in your positions, is unmeasurable and is doing years and years worth of harm.

Sincerely,



INSURANCE

Craig Miller
Insurance Agent

cmiller@pbcins.com
P: 541.484.6624
C: 541.228.5329
F: 541.686.2726

pbcins.com
450 Country Club Road Suite 330
Eugene, Oregon 97401

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From: [Kari Westlund](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Cc: [Andy Vobora](#); [Jason Williams](#); [Jeremy Carney](#); [BAROFSKY John](#); [EUGENE CASCADES Coast \(SMTP\)](#); [Lorrie Normann](#); [mnewman@inbusinessmedia.com](#); [Richard Boyles \(rboyles@meretehotels.com\)](#); [Robert Canaga \(rcanaga@gmail.com\)](#); [Terry Hopkins](#)
Subject: Proposed Ordinance 20-03
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:51:04 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Chair Buch, Commissioners and Administrator Mokrohisky,
Travel Lane Count worked hard over the last week to try and find a match for placement of COVID-19 positive populations in area hotels. Thank you for the opportunity to try and help. We were unsuccessful in securing rooms. Not for a lack of desire and willingness to help, and not due to rate issues. The problem, time and again as we talked with hotels, was the inability to be certain that COVID-19 positive placements would honor the quarantine and stay within the room without County-sponsored on site supervision, and even if they did that there might be issues containing spread from reaching other populations on site. Here is our impression of the issues, and they make adoption of proposed ordinance 20-03 an inadequate solution:

1. Fear and perception of risk by hotel staff. Fearful staff have threatened to walk off the job in some cases. This is exacerbated by an instance where a COVID-19 positive placement did violate the quarantine and entered public areas of the hotel, endangering staff and other guests.
2. Shared ventilation and HVAC systems, making true quarantine questionable and potentially endangering others. Some hotels were advised early on that they were not suitable for supplementary hospital rooms due to shared ventilation systems and risk of contamination from one room to another.
3. Heightened calls to hotels to ensure safety for regular travelers through implementation of strict mitigation measures to avoid spread of contamination. Hotels are working hard to implement enhanced safety measures. Brining the virus on site runs counter to assuring the safety of staff and other guests.

Our staff team had a sense that our hotel partners were sincere in their desire to find solutions. Closed wings or properties are one possible solution, but come at an increased cost and level of responsibility for Lane County.

I had hoped we could create communication efficiencies and save critical staff time in trying to find quarantine locations. Thank you for the opportunity to try and I'm sorry we were unsuccessful due to the legitimate concerns detailed above. A mandatory compliance order is not going to solve these legitimate concerns, so I wanted to share what we learned with you.

Sincerely,

Kari Westlund
KARI WESTLUND
President & CEO
TRAVEL LANE COUNTY

754 Olive St | Eugene OR 97401

Direct: 541.743.8750 / Main Office: 541.484.5307

Kari@EugeneCascadesCoast.org

Our staff is currently working remotely to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

We are responding to emails and calls Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*For the latest travel alerts, go to: **EugeneCascadesCoast.org/Alert***

From: [Rick Motley](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: Homeless in hotels
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:52:23 AM

[EXTERNAL]

I do not support the use of public funds to force hotels and motels to house anyone. It is wrong to force a private business to house anyone let alone a group of people with a host of all kinds of issues. If a business wishes to take part of housing that is up to them.

Rick Motley
3278 Stark Ct
Eugene 97404

From: pamerdan@aol.com
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: Board is Violating the Third Amendment of the US Constitution
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:44:11 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Commissioners -

It is my understanding that a vote was taken by the Board to "force" Lane Co hotels/motels to provide lodging for the homeless. The fact that you would "force" the businesses to meet your order is bad enough. The fact this would put hotel/motel employees and guests at significant risk is bad enough. But, the fact this order violates the 3rd amendment to the US Constitution makes it illegal. Upon assuming your positions on the Board, you all took an oath to uphold the US Constitution, which I know doesn't mean a lot to political figures these days but it most definitely should. Anyway as a refresher, the 3rd amendment states, "No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law".

Have you bothered to consult the hotel/motel industry in Lane Co about your determination? What I am hearing is that you have not. Why do you feel you have the legal authority to do this?

I also understand another vote is to be taken I believe in a couple of weeks. This recent decision on the part of the Board should be entertained no further. It is illegal! And, the Board has already commandeered other buildings, such as the Wheeler Pavilion, to house the homeless. Enough is enough!

Please do what is right?

Pam Duffy
Cottage Grove

From: [Mr.](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: Housing the infected.
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:10:23 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Board members,

I find it such a egregious overreach of your appointed powers, to want to force local hotels and motels to house potentially COVID-19 infected people. And a segment of the population which already causes many problems for the private business owners already. Government overreach? Ever hear of it?

You should ask the hotels if they are willing to assist, not try to force them, with possible financial penalties.

I will be reminding everyone I possibly can of those of you that voted in favor of this unlawful measure, and also be attending public meetings to support the rights of free citizens and businesses against this tyrannical move.

Regards,
A free born American Veteran.

From: aslinj@comcast.net
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: covid homeless and hotel/motel housing
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:51:17 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Board of Commissioners,

I am a registered, active voter, and fully paid-up tax payer in Lane County.

The idea to mandate co-mingling of ill people with well people is contrary to the first rule of separation when dealing with a contagious illness. Why do you think the world is under forced “social distancing”? What is the Lane county Board of Commissioners thinking?

Not to mention, whether you can or not, impinge on the businesses involved.

Shame on you of the board that support this notion. Smacks of sheer ignorance and power-tripping.

Hope to hear from you as I would love to know the rationale being used in this situation.

Joan Aslin

6070 Rombauer Road

Eugene, Oregon

From: [Northrup](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: Don't co-opt hotels or motels.
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:07:34 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Commissioners,

Saw the article this morning in the RG about Lane County considering forcing hotel people to house people for quarantine.

The government can house them in government facilities just fine. Don't we have a convention center or some other method.

All I can say is that if the government forced me to do that, they had better become the staff and the cleaners, and responsible for any repercussions.

No one knows what to do with covid. And some people would rightly not want to be in proximity to covid cases for fear of their own death.

This is a case where if you can grant hotel'ers and motel'ers liberty to refuse, then you are putting a potential death sentence on them.

This should be left to professionals.

For as few cases as we have, you should be pay the hospitals to house them there.

They are equipped for it.

If you were to do anything, it would be to have them supervised in facilities that already know how to decontaminate and how to attend to their health.

I don't have a good answer, but what I can say is that no one can make another person come in and clean a quarantined area when they have no experience in how to do that. It is a threat to both lives. Picking people at random and saying, "you're it", is not something ought ever do.

Use government resources, use hospital resources.

For those who have "family facilities" at hospitals so family can be next to a patient during a prolonged time in the hospital, why not try that approach.

Or, find a smaller hotel and have government and medical people staff the motel and pay them the full wages, and it is the governments responsibility to ensure that when those people are gone, that everything has been medically scrubbed, to the safety of the actual motel owner, and not at the expense of the motel owner.

It should not be a hotel that with the air ducting carries covid throughout the hotel like the big huge luxury ships that everyone breathes everyone's air.

A few smaller motel people with individual rooms, like you have at the coast if it is a small facility, they cordon off a place like that and pay them in full and find facilities that can separate things.

Either way, people have the right to say No to being personally involved. Government has to provide it, not the people. And you should do it in the safest way for government people. And you should be able to isolate. And you should clean up the residences at the government expense. Leave innocent people who have no clue about Covid to not have to risk their lives.

I think you are wrestling with how to do this. You don't put people in jail because they are fearful of getting covid or giving it to their guests and getting sued and losing their livelihood. You pay them for the facilities, you make it safe, you staff it, you clean it up, and if you didn't clean it up, the government pays for it. That's what happens in times of war, the government employees take over. However, to the degree we can compensate, we absolutely must.

And if no one wants to be in the other motel rooms, then find a smaller motel where you can afford to make the whole facility as taken over by the government and compensating them for their average amounts they normally do, so that it is all on the government and none on the owners. That's as close as I can see it getting. No shared air ducting. Individual places.

And, in order to be protective, station a police officer at the facility. The last thing we need is to pick a run down facility where crime is rampant and then the house people fear for their lives and get broken into. That would be worse than the cure.

You are caring thinking people. These are just thoughts that come to me and how I would feel. I don't know the answers, but I hope you have the principles in place I am attempting to extract from my inner being, as to how to treat our fellow man, and that would be treating them just like we would want to be treated in all aspects.

Best to you. Thanks for listening.

Bill Northrup, Eugene OR

From: [Paul Horvath](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: Proposed Ordinance 20-03
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:33:38 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Commissioners

It is my opinion that the proposed ordinance 20-03 is a bad idea. I do not believe it is governments place to force any business to provide services, and it should be the establishments choice as to whom it serves.

I have to believe that there is a reason the proprietors are refusing to accept the counties payment vouchers and you should be taking this into consideration.

I urge you to abandon this avenue as a way to deal with the ongoing and let's be honest, unsolvable, homeless problem.

Respectfully
Paul Horvath
Creswell, OR

From: [Gene Stevens](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: Lane County Homeless Virus Housing Solution
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:03:02 PM

[EXTERNAL]

I respectfully offer an alternative solution for housing rather than the proposal to force motel owners to take in homeless patients. Lane County has an unlimited supply of quality housing. U of O dorms!! With the dorms owned by the state the University of Oregon could benefit from the revenue generated by payments. Rather than paying private motel owners, utilize public owned resources to solve the problem. Dorm facilities are strategically located for health care needs and public transportation. Patients would be in an environment that would facilitate care and provide easy access for all required assistance.

Thank you for considering my proposal as alternative too passing legislation that would impact our private business owners in Lane County. Respectfully submitted.

Gene Stevens
541-521-5428

Sent from my iPad

From: [FARR Pat M \(LC\)](#)
To: [Fairfield Front Desk Supervisor](#)
Cc: [JONES Diana L \(CAO\)](#)
Subject: Re: Concerns Regarding Amendment to County Code Chapter 9
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:13:00 AM

Dear Caprella Strimple,

Because we are currently in a public comment period, with further public board deliberation on Ordinance 20-03 scheduled for May 5, 2020 all Commissioners have been advised to say, thank you for your information it will be placed in the record of Ordinance 20-03.

Sincerely,
Pat Farr

PS: Please do not hesitate to view the April 21 Board Meeting video which contains the entire discussion held by the board so far. Follow this link: <https://lanecounty.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3585881&pageId=7842434>

Pat Farr

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 23, 2020, at 9:34 AM, Fairfield Front Desk Supervisor <fifdsalko@gmail.com> wrote:

EXTERNAL]

Dear Commissioner Farr,

I'm reaching out to request that you reconsider the recently introduced Amendment to Lane County Code Chapter 9, concerning emergency COVID-19 lodging.

The hotel industry has spent the past few months facing a variety of new challenges introduced by this pandemic. As a supervisor I've seen many people laid off, and many others have refused to come back to work due to the risks involved with the guest contact our roles require. As many of our housekeepers are also mothers and grandmothers, they fear that they may unknowingly infect their family members at home.

During the shortage of PPE caused by the pandemic, our ownership has provided handmade masks and plastic barriers to prevent any avoidable

hazards at work. We are doing our best to ensure that our staff members are washing their hands as frequently as possible and wearing masks, and we've eliminated daily housekeeping so that our rooms are only cleaned after guest departure.

We've done our best to keep infection risks to our guests and staff at bay, however introducing COVID-19 positive or assumptively positive persons into our property is going to make these risks impossible to manage.

We cannot expect our employees and ownership to decide between providing for their families and risking their health and safety. Our people are the most valuable asset to the hospitality industry, and we'd hate to see them fall ill or worse if this amendment passes.

We understand that the unhoused population of Lane County is experiencing great hardship and creating concerns for our community. However, it would feel unfair to see our local hotels devastated by the impact of homeless patients utilizing our facilities.

I urge you to consider the fear and uncertainty we're already facing during this economic and public health emergency, and don't put our industry in harm's way without adequate protection.

Respectfully,

Capella Strimple

Front Desk Supervisor

--

Fairfield by Marriott
Eugene East/ Springfield
P: 541- 743-8990
F: 541-743-8892
3003 Franklin Blvd.
Eugene, OR 97403
fidsalko@gmail.com
www.marriott.com/eugfi

From: [BUCH Heather H](#)
To: [JONES Diana L \(CAO\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Homeless virus shelter
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:16:11 AM

For the record

*I will be working remotely during this global pandemic. I will be checking my voicemail and emails. Please stay home and stay safe as the Governor has advised. When you do you potentially save thousands of lives in our community and beyond.

*For Covid-19 information please visit www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus for the latest information from Lane County Public Health.

Stay home and stay safe,
Heather Buch
Chair, Lane County Commissioner - District 5
Heather.Buch@co.lane.or.us *Email is the best way to reach me, although voluminous*
125 E. 8th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401
541.682.4203

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gene Stevens <greengene66@msn.com>
Date: April 22, 2020 at 9:42:42 PM PDT
To: BUCH Heather H <Heather.BUCH@lanecountyor.gov>
Subject: Homeless virus shelter

[EXTERNAL]

Have you considered the option of utilizing vacant U of O dorms while the campus is closed because of the virus. They are using e-classes during the shutdown and the dorms would be a logical option. They are strategically located and offer all necessary resources immediately available. The dorm rooms will be empty and could be utilized as temporary housing while the county is preparing the new facility. Respectfully submitted.

Gene Stevens
79542 Abbott Lane
Cottage Grove, Or
541-521-5428

Sent from my iPad

From: [BUCH Heather H](#)
To: [JONES Diana L \(CAO\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Plans for Hotels
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:23:27 AM

For the record

*I will be working remotely during this global pandemic. I will be checking my voicemail and emails. Please stay home and stay safe as the Governor has advised. When you do you potentially save thousands of lives in our community and beyond.

*For Covid-19 information please visit www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus for the latest information from Lane County Public Health.

Stay home and stay safe,
Heather Buch

Chair, Lane County Commissioner - District 5

Heather.Buch@co.lane.or.us *Email is the best way to reach me, although voluminous*
125 E. 8th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401
541.682.4203

Begin forwarded message:

From: Steve Bartlett <steve14957@gmail.com>
Date: April 23, 2020 at 8:55:58 AM PDT
To: BUCH Heather H <Heather.BUCH@lanecountyor.gov>
Subject: Plans for Hotels

EXTERNAL]

Okay this is Government over reach right here you boneheads! You can't force Hotels to take sick people! Hotel employees have said they will quit if this happens. Then the hotels will get fined because they can't take anybody because they have no employees. A catch 22! Why don't you all use some common sense and put the sick in the shelters and the healthy in hotel rooms? Oh that's right, that would make sense! As you can tell I don't like Democrats very much! Use your heads, stop thinking on how you can exploit business for money when they DON'T have money right now! You all sound just like our Queen Kate Brown!

Thank you, or not,

Steven Bartlett

From: [Richard Gann](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: housing of the homeless with coronavirus
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 7:51:41 AM

[EXTERNAL]

I suggest the board of commissioners request funding from the federal government for beds and place the homeless in the county courthouse and your offices.

If room is lacking, make room in your spare bedrooms, offices, and garages at your residences.

To take available hotel rooms for the purpose of housing the homeless is a horrible idea, that you can take private property to serve your purposes without going through an adverse possession process.

You should be ousted from office.

Dick Gann..

From: [SORENSEN Pete](#)
To: ["Richard Gann"](#); [JONES Diana L \(CAO\)](#); [WILLIAMS Judy M](#)
Subject: RE: housing of the homeless with coronavirus
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:56:49 AM

Dear Mr. Gann,

At a time we need creative ideas in government, you've certainly stretched things. I'm surprised you didn't start with elected officials who live in public housing. It seems that you could have started with the President, the Vice President, Admirals, Generals, Governors and other public officials who live in taxpayer paid government housing. Lane County Commissioners have to pay for their own homes like most people.

I'll ask that this comment is included in our record for due consideration by the Board of Health.

Concerning my plans to be ousted from office, I can only say that the voters sent me to the table (and virtually to the table) where the decisions of the Lane County Board of Commissioners makes its decisions. They've done this six times in 24 years. My term expires on January 4, 2021 so I'll be leaving office at that time or perhaps earlier if recalled.

Pete Sorenson
Lane County Commissioner
South Eugene District
Eugene, Oregon

From: Richard Gann [mailto:richardgann@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 7:52 AM
To: *LC Board of County Commissioners
Subject: housing of the homeless with coronavirus

[EXTERNAL]

I suggest the board of commissioners request funding from the federal government for beds and place the homeless in the county courthouse and your offices.

If room is lacking, make room in your spare bedrooms, offices, and garages at your residences.

To take available hotel rooms for the purpose of housing the homeless is a horrible idea, that you can take private property to serve your purposes without going through an adverse possession process.

You should be ousted from office.

Dick Gann..

From: innkeeper@eaglerocklodge.com
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Cc: THopkins@OregonRLA.org
Subject: Letter of Opposition for Proposed Ordinance 20-03
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 2:37:05 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Commissioners,

We are a small 8 room bed and breakfast on the McKenzie River. We do not have the staff, the knowledge or even the right type of rooms to accept COVID 19 patients. We are owner occupied and only have 3 employees - 2 housekeepers and one groundskeeper plus ourselves.

Housing possible or positive COVID-19 would be a huge burden - and one that we are not equipped or able to deal with.

We appreciate your attention to this issue and appreciate your rejection of the above noted Ordinance.

Sincerely,
Nancy Boyce & Robert Short
Eagle Rock Lodge
49198 McKenzie Hwy
Vida, OR 97488

From: [bobby patel](#)
To: [Terry Hopkins](#); [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: opposing
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:20:40 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Valueinn motel
595 hwy 99 north, eugene,oregon

we are writing you a letter of opposing to the proposed Ordiance 20-03 . This ordinance is unnecessary, We are not risking our Guest , Employees and families health who live onsite . we are not health care provider or Neither employee are. you need to use your existing facility . we are urge you to do not pass Ordinance 20-30

Bobby Patel General Manager Value Inn Motel 595 HWY 99 North Eugene OR 97402 541-688-2733

From: [LAUREN](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Cc: THopkins@OregonRLA.org
Subject: Ordinance for Covid 19 Housing
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 8:14:46 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Hello,

I have received the information from the ORLA that Lane County will be holding hearings about the proposed ordinance.

The following are my comments regarding the hotel vouchers for quarantining Covid 19 patients:

I certainly understand the need for safe spaces for such housing. I applaud the effort to plan for such a quarantine. However, I hope those in charge consider that some Transient Lodgings should not be required to house such quarantined individuals.

My husband and I are proprietors of a bed and breakfast in Mapleton. The accommodations include only the second story suite accessed by walking through the home where my husband and I live full-time. We are both over 65; my husband is retired and I work as a private tutor and on-call library substitute.

Because we are already in the age group at risk for a serious response to the Coronavirus, and because the transient housing we provide is inside our own residence, we believe it is neither wise nor fair for the ordinance as written to require all ORLA lodging to accept the Covid lodging vouchers.

I am certain other ORLA members have housing situations similar to ours. It is possible, too, that other reasons must preclude some potential housing to be unwise. For example, rural housing such as ours are far from hospitals. At this time, a Covid 19 diagnosis or threat in Mapleton or would require an ambulance travel of about an hour to get to the closest hospital accepting such cases.

Please reconsider the breadth of this ordinance such that it does not further endanger healthy residents or ill individuals.

Thank you,

Lauren Hesse
10987 E. Mapleton Rd
Mapleton, OR. 97453

www.laurensplacebnb.com,
a member of Travel Lane County and Florence Chamber of Commerce

Sent from my iPhone

From: [BUCH Heather H](#)
To: [JONES Diana L \(CAO\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Homeless sheltered at local motels
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 8:52:42 AM

For the record

*I will be working remotely during this global pandemic. I will be checking my voicemail and emails. Please stay home and stay safe as the Governor has advised. When you do you potentially save thousands of lives in our community and beyond.

*For Covid-19 information please visit www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus for the latest information from Lane County Public Health.

Stay home and stay safe,
Heather Buch

Chair, Lane County Commissioner - District 5

Heather.Buch@co.lane.or.us *Email is the best way to reach me, although voluminous*
125 E. 8th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401
541.682.4203

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kevin Adamski <kevo97424@yahoo.com>
Date: April 22, 2020 at 9:04:16 AM PDT
To: BUCH Heather H <Heather.BUCH@lanecountyor.gov>
Subject: Homeless sheltered at local motels

[EXTERNAL]

Heather,

I do not support the Board of Commissioners, requiring local businesses to house local Corona Virus infection patients to be housed in private accommodations. What about the newly purchased building in the River Rd.?

From: [BUCH Heather H](#)
To: [JONES Diana L \(CAO\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: confiscation of private property
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 8:37:14 AM

For the record

*I will be working remotely during this global pandemic. I will be checking my voicemail and emails. Please stay home and stay safe as the Governor has advised. When you do you potentially save thousands of lives in our community and beyond.

*For Covid-19 information please visit www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus for the latest information from Lane County Public Health.

Stay home and stay safe,

Heather Buch

Chair, Lane County Commissioner - District 5

Heather.Buch@co.lane.or.us *Email is the best way to reach me, although voluminous*

125 E. 8th Ave.

Eugene, OR 97401

541.682.4203

Begin forwarded message:

From: "janover@epud.net" <janover@epud.net>
Date: April 23, 2020 at 8:06:50 PM PDT
To: BUCH Heather H <Heather.BUCH@lanecountyor.gov>
Subject: confiscation of private property

EXTERNAL]

Chair of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, Heather Buch

I regret to say I strongly disagree with your position of promoting and voting for potential virus exposed people in a public hotel. To threaten private property owners with substantial fines in the time they are hurting, with the knowledge you should have you will be driving other customers away from that hotel.

I am sad you feel necessary to confiscate private property. I think in the long run you will cost the tax payers, in lawsuits, a pile of money for an unprecedented move, other than wartime, when military takes over private property. As a political science person, there is a great deal of history for this type of action.

There is no way individuals are going to stay quarantined in a room in a hotel – they will roam the hallways. I have met several people in Cottage Grove, including housekeepers. Some motels require a room be vacant 36 hours AFTER a healthy customer leaves, before that room is entered and cleaned. This virus is vicious. But with the 5th floor of the jail empty, the fairgrounds empty – other buildings empty, including the Veterans Administration building the county just purchased – why risk housekeepers that are untrained for this type of work?

I know your job is tough.

Sincerely yours

Donald Williams

From: [Mike De Heus](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Cc: THopkins@OregonRLA.org
Subject: Ordinance 20-03
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 2:13:43 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Buy some RV trailers and put them in the Lane County Campgrounds that are currently closed. The expense of the trailers will be offset by the expenses expected from disinfecting the room & hotel building (since the unhoused will be walking around the property) Along with with the expenses expected from damages to the room & building.

My concern is not regarding payment, rather it is the detriment to my current and future ability to staff our hotels and retain guests. While not every unhoused person is mentally ill or prone to behavioral issues, it is well documented that the homeless population has a higher incidence of these conditions. Hotel staff are not trained, nor are they expected to be trained, to deal with the potential issues of a population that, for whatever reason, may not be willing or capable of following the essential guidelines we have put in place to protect our staff and guests. For obvious economic reasons, we are operating at skeleton staff levels as it is - that leaves only law enforcement to intervene and manage these non-compliance issues. In the meantime, our staff and guests are at an increased risk to their health and physical well-being. It is not unrealistic to assume, given these circumstances, that it would become difficult to retain both staff and guests, the lifeblood of the hospitality industry, in present time or the weeks, months and potentially years down the road.

From: [Mike De Heus](#)
To: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Cc: THopkins@OregonRLA.org
Subject: Ordinance 20-03
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:47:54 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Hotels staff are not trained for the duties and responsibilities as outlined in proposed Ordinance 20-03. They are not medical or behavioral health providers.

Michael De Heus

From: [FARR Pat M \(LC\)](#)
To: [Mike De Heus](#)
Cc: [JONES Diana L \(CAO\)](#)
Subject: Re: Ordinance 20-03
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2020 8:33:27 AM

Thanks Mike. This is an excellent recommendation. I'm forwarding it for placement in the record that will become part of the discussion.

Pat Farr

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 24, 2020, at 2:33 PM, Mike De Heus <mikedeheus@yahoo.com> wrote:

[EXTERNAL]

Buy some RV trailers and put them in the Lane County Campgrounds that are currently closed.

The expense of the trailers will be offset by the expenses expected from disinfecting the room & hotel building (since the unhoused will be walking around the property) Along with with the expenses expected from damages to the room & building.

<1587762750169blob.jpg>

Mike De Heus

<1587762750169blob.jpg>