



February 13, 2024

To: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners  
Commissioner Patti Adair, Chair  
Commissioner Tony DeBone, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Phil Chang

Subject: Central Oregon Veterans Outreach (COVO) request for approval of NONPROFIT TAX EXEMPTION application

In accordance with Bend Code Chapter 12.30, COVO is applying for Nonprofit Property Tax Exemption for eight properties deeded solely for low-income rentals. COVO is requesting that the County approve this request.

COVO is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that provides food, clothing, case management and assistance, temporary shelter, homeless camp outreach and low-income rental housing to military Veteran individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of losing housing. Our goal is to get as many homeless Veterans as possible into permanent housing. Our case management process focuses on achieving stability in the lives of Veterans and their families so they can return to or remain able to take care of themselves and their families.

COVO serves the homeless community at large in Bend. COVO was founded to assist military veterans and their families experiencing homelessness, and that remains the core of our services. Many Veterans experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of losing their housing live with problems associated with their military service that become barriers to having stable lives and therefore to keeping housing. These Veterans are among those whom without assistance can stay caught in a cycle of failure which only exacerbates mental and physical struggles that resulted from their service. Many of our Veteran clients are not receiving Veterans Administration benefits to which they are entitled. Our case managers help Veterans to obtain these benefits, including housing assistance, medical care, behavioral health care, disability payments and vocational rehabilitation. Non-veteran clients receive the same type of case management support, but by trust deed are only eligible for COVO housing in two properties, one (1407 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street) of which is on this request for property tax exemption.



COVO is requesting your support for our Nonprofit Tax Exemption Application for eight low-income properties that COVO is paying property tax on, consisting of 16 individual housing units and 1 vacant lot reserved for building low-income housing.

All funds not paid in taxes will benefit our renters by being applied to maintaining low rents, property maintenance and continued support services for Veterans and the homeless community.

Thank you for your consideration,

J.W. Terry  
Executive Director  
COVO

Les Bivens  
President  
COVO, Board of Directors