



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Administrative Policy GA-23, Removal of Unsafe Encampments Located on County-owned Property

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Staff recommends moving approval of County Administrator signature of Administrative Policy GA-23, Removal of Unsafe Encampments Located on County-owned Property

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

At the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, a workgroup was formed in 2022 to draft a policy to address unsafe encampments located on County-owned property. The workgroup includes staff from Property Management, County Counsel and the Sheriff's Office. And more recently, the Executive Director of the Coordinated Houseless Response Office, Cheyenne Purrington.

The policy was drafted in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 195.500 through 195.530, to 1) recognize the social nature of the problem of homeless individuals camping on public property; and 2) implement the policy as developed, to ensure the most humane treatment for removal of homeless individuals from camping sites on public property.

The policy outlines the process to remove personal property from an encampment located on County-owned property when an imminent or immediate threat to public health and/or safety has been identified. This may include but is not limited to personal property that poses a threat, fire, increase public health vectors, and/or illegal activities such as known illicit drug use, stolen property or violence.

Prior to finalizing the policy, input was solicited from the Board of County Commissioners, Administration, Deschutes County Behavioral Health and Community Justice, Cities (Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters) and a number of community service providers. The workgroup reviewed input received and incorporated in the policy as appropriate.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

Property Management budgeted \$50,000 in FY 2023 for encampment cleanups as needed.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Kristie Bollinger, Property Management

Cheyenne Purrington, Coordinated Houseless Response Office