

# City of St. Helens

## Recognized News Media Representative Application

Pursuant to the City of St. Helens' Executive Session News Media Attendance Policy, those claiming to be representatives of the news media are requested to complete this form. Please provide the requested information below, complete and sign the certification section, and submit the completed form to the City Recorder in advance by: (1) personal delivery to the City Recorder; (2) sending the completed form via e-mail to [CR@sthelensoregon.gov](mailto:CR@sthelensoregon.gov); or (3) delivering a completed copy to City Hall located at 265 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051.

**NOTE:** If the City is unable to verify this information prior to the start of an executive session, your attendance at the executive session may be denied or the executive session may be postponed.

Board members Adam St.Pierre,  
Brianna Gaston, Mercedes Massey

FAFODDS, Columbia County Transparency and  
accountability

**Print Name**

**Name of News Media Organization Represented**

### CERTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATION:

I, Adam St.Pierre, board member, certify the following to be true and accurate:

I represent the following:

- A daily newspaper, non-daily, or small-market newspaper/publication, or publication that is released as a digital or multiplatform product.
- A newspaper or publication that the City uses for publication of public notices and meets the requirements of ORS 193.020.
- A news media organization that is organized and operated to regularly and continuously publish, broadcast, transmit via the internet, or otherwise disseminate news to the public, and that regularly reports on activities of the City or matters of the nature under consideration by the City Council.

The news media organization that I represent is committed to complying with the requirement that confidential executive session information be undisclosed.

I have provided the following credentials sufficient to allow the City to determine that I am a representative of the above identified news media organization: (select all that apply)

- A press badge or identification issued by the news media organization, plus proof of my identity;
- A copy of a recently published news article showing my name as a member of the news gathering staff of the news media organization, plus proof of my identity;
- A letter on letterhead from an editor of the news media organization that states that I am covering the meeting for the news media organization, plus proof of my identity; or

- The following evidence sufficient to show that I am a representative of the above identified news media organization: Facebook page over the last year has had 880 post, 18,765 comments 40,599 reactions all based on local news relivant stories. Also considered news media by SOS

As a representative of the news media, I agree to comply with ORS 192.660(4).

Adam St.Pierre  
Signature

Jan 7, 2025  
Date Signed

**From:** [Adam St.Pierre](mailto:Adam.St.Pierre)  
**To:** [City Recorder: fafodds@gmail.com](mailto:fafodds@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [External] Media Representation  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 6:11:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [AMENDED ANNUAL REPORT.rtf](#)  
[FinalLetter-92-3681195-FAFODDSCORP-04252023-00.pdf](#)  
[Newsmedia2.ccoiv.pdf](#)  
[Screen Shot 2025-01-07 at 6.04.50 AM.png](#)

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12-07-2024  
City of St. Helens  
City Council  
265 Strand Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051

Dear St. Helens City Council,

**Subject:** Proposal for Consideration of FAFODDS- Media Access for Executive Sessions

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing on behalf of FAFODDS, a nonprofit public-benefit corporation operating exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes under IRC Section 501(c)(3). Our mission includes supporting victims of unsolved crimes, requesting and publishing public records, and disseminating information to the community through modern media platforms.

**Organization Information**

**Organization Name:** FAFODDS

**EIN:** 92-3681195

**Public Charity Status:** IRC Section 501(c)(3), Public Charity Status 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

**Oregon Secretary of State Registration Number:** 210640892

**Purpose and Media Presence**

FAFODDS utilizes prominent social media platforms, including the Columbia County Transparency and Accountability (CCTA) Facebook Page and the Justice for Sarah Zuber Facebook Page, which collectively reach approximately 4,700 followers to disseminate media information. These platforms represents an estimated 31.33% of the Columbia County population, highlighting our significant community engagement. Additionally, many traditional newspapers and media outlets actively monitor our pages for current events and key indicators to guide further reporting efforts. Social media has proven to be the most effective way to reach citizens, surpassing traditional methods like AM radio. Unlike radio, which requires active engagement from the audience, social media ensures timely and accessible updates by pushing information directly to users who follow our pages. FAFODDS employs a variety of methods to share information, including but not limited to:

- Publishing FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request documents.
- Live streaming local events directly to our social media platforms.
- Sharing community updates and real-time news.

We remain fully aware of the confidentiality required for executive session discussions and are committed to adhering strictly to these guidelines.

**Media Access to Executive Sessions**

Under the guidance of the Oregon Attorney General (No. 8291, Apr 18, 2016, 2016 WL 2905510):

The term "representatives of the media" is not defined by the ORS or by any judicial opinion to date. However, the Oregon Attorney General's office has issued an advisory opinion wherein it concluded that under Oregon law "news-gathering representatives of institutional media" are permitted to attend executive sessions and the term is "broad and flexible enough to encompass changing technologies for delivering the news." The conclusion reached by the attorney general seems to imply that *bloggers and other social media news entities are authorized to attend executive sessions*. In reaching this conclusion, the attorney general relied heavily on what it believes are the stated reasons the Legislative Assembly allowed the media to attend executive sessions when the law was originally adopted.

Both general interest media and specialized online media platforms, such as blogs, may qualify. Media representatives can attend executive sessions as long as confidentiality standards are upheld.

**Key Points from the Attorney General's Guidance:**

**Gathering and Disseminating News:** A representative must engage in activities that involve gathering and distributing news or information.

**Formal Affiliation:** While this term is mentioned, the guidance does not strictly limit eligibility to traditional "institutional" entities. It opens the door for platforms such as blogs, nonprofits, or organizations that provide reliable, structured news dissemination.

**Nonprofit Organizations as Media:**

A nonprofit with a robust platform that actively gathers, reports, and disseminates news and public information can qualify as a representative of the news media under this guidance. The nonprofit would need to demonstrate:

- **A Track Record of Reporting:** Evidence of consistent reporting or dissemination of public information.
- **Community Engagement:** An established audience and a role in informing the public.
- **Adherence to Ethical Standards:** A commitment to accuracy, transparency, and confidentiality where applicable (e.g., respecting executive session boundaries).

Given our established role in gathering and disseminating community information, FAFODDS qualifies as a media entity under this definition.

**Request for Consideration**

We respectfully request that FAFODDS be recognized as a media entity and granted permission to attend executive sessions. This request includes the following FAFODDS board members:

- Adam St. Pierre- Board Member
- Brianna Gaston- Secretary
- Mercedes Massey- Board Member

Our presence at these sessions would allow us to further our mission of promoting transparency and effectively engaging with the community, all while strictly adhering to ethical and legal requirements, including maintaining confidentiality and omitting any information or issues discussed during executive sessions.

While a formal affiliation with a traditional institutional news media entity is one path, the guidance allows flexibility for nonprofits or other organizations that function as credible sources of news.

Our nonprofit (FAFODDS) demonstrates that it meets these criteria, and can be considered a representative of the news media under the Oregon Attorney General's interpretation.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

Adam St. Pierre  
Behalf of FAFODDS  
503-881-5856  
[fafodds@gmail.com](mailto:fafodds@gmail.com)

**Enclosure:** Department of Justice No Profit, Secretary of the State

FAFODDS

Business Overview

Business Name

FAFODDS

Entity Type

Domestic Nonprofit Corporation(DNP)

Registry Number

210640892

Registration Date

04/12/2023

Renewal Due Date

04/12/2024

Activity Description

NONPROFIT PUBLIC-BENEFIT CORPORATION OPERATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CHARITABLE, SCIENTIFIC, OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF UNSOLVED CRIMES AND REQUESTING AND PUBLISHING PUBLIC RECORDS. CONSIDERED MEDIA

Describe the type of business activity (250 characters or less)

Business Email

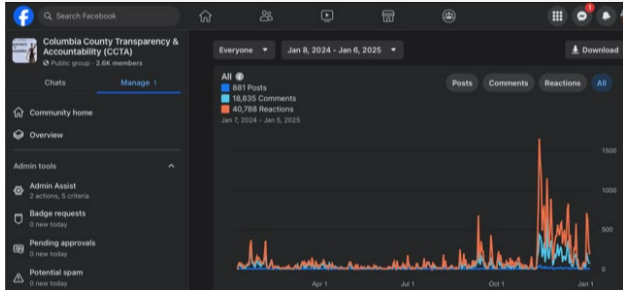
Select From List | Clear Email

Notifications may be sent to this address.

FAFODDS@GMAIL.COM

Re-enter Email

FAFODDS@GMAIL.COM





Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

FAFODDS CORP  
185 CLARK STREET  
SAINT HELENS, OR 97051

**Date:**  
05/04/2023  
**Employer ID number:**  
92-3681195  
**Person to contact:**  
Name: Customer Service  
ID number: 31954  
Telephone: (877) 829-5500  
**Accounting period ending:**  
December 31  
**Public charity status:**  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
**Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:**  
Yes  
**Effective date of exemption:**  
April 12, 2023  
**Contribution deductibility:**  
Yes  
**Addendum applies:**  
No  
**DLN:**  
26053517003633

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

# AMENDED ANNUAL REPORT



Corporation Division  
[sos.oregon.gov/business](http://sos.oregon.gov/business)

**E-FILED**  
Mar 02, 2024

**OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE**

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**REGISTRY NUMBER**

210640892

**REGISTRATION DATE**

04/12/2023

**BUSINESS NAME**

FAFODDS

**BUSINESS ACTIVITY**

NONPROFIT PUBLIC-BENEFIT CORPORATION OPERATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CHARITABLE, SCIENTIFIC, OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF UNSOLVED CRIMES AND REQUESTING AND PUBLISHING PUBLIC RECORDS. CONSIDERED MEDIA

**MAILING ADDRESS**

185 CLARK ST  
SAINT HELENS OR 97051 USA

**TYPE**

DOMESTIC NONPROFIT CORPORATION

**PRIMARY PLACE OF BUSINESS**

185 CLARK STREET  
SAINT HELENS OR 97051 USA

**JURISDICTION**

OREGON

**REGISTERED AGENT**

ERICA TATOIAN

111 SW COLUMBIA ST  
SUITE 950  
PORTLAND OR 97201 USA

If the Registered Agent has changed, the new agent has consented to the appointment.

**PRESIDENT**

JENNIFER MASSEY

185 CLARK ST  
SAINT HELENS OR 97051 USA

**SECRETARY**

BRIANNA GASTON

58698 NOBLE RD  
SAINT HELENS OR 97051 USA



I declare, under penalty of perjury, that this document does not fraudulently conceal, fraudulently obscure, fraudulently alter or otherwise misrepresent the identity of the person or any officers, directors, employees or agents of the corporation on behalf of which the person signs. This filing has been examined by me and is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, correct, and complete. Making false statements in this document is against the law and may be penalized by fines, imprisonment, or both.

By typing my name in the electronic signature field, I am agreeing to conduct business electronically with the State of Oregon. I understand that transactions and/or signatures in records may not be denied legal effect solely because they are conducted, executed, or prepared in electronic form and that if a law requires a record or signature to be in writing, an electronic record or signature satisfies that requirement.

**ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE**

**NAME**

JENNIFER MASSEY

**TITLE**

PRESIDENT

**DATE**

03-02-2024