EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12-08

RECONVENING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Executive Order No. 11-06 created the Governor's Commission on Public Safety to take stock of our current public safety system with its successes and challenges and to chart a path for the future. By convening leaders from the three branches of state government and one public member, the Commission's purpose was to focus Oregon's long-term planning efforts on sentencing and public safety. Within a short-time frame, the Commission identified key findings, recommended future work, and established principles to guide future work.

According to FBI statistics, crime rates have decreased across the United States over the past 30 years and Oregon is no exception. Both violent crime and property crime rates have fallen in Oregon. Oregon also has been recognized for its efforts to reduce recidivism and for its support of evidence-based practices. Even with these accomplishments, there is a widespread misperception among Oregonians that crime has increased.

The state is on an unsustainable path of corrections growth that will limit funding available for proven crime-prevention, reformation, and re-entry strategies. We must reverse the presumption of unlimited corrections growth and redesign a sustainable system that provides opportunities to reduce victimization and keep people safe in the long term, as it holds offenders accountable and protects public safety.

After receiving the Commission's report on December 30, 2011, the leaders of the Legislative Assembly have pledged their commitment to work to develop fiscally responsible, data-driven policies and practices that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections costs. Given the commitment by leaders of all three branches of government to address the unsustainable path we are travelling, I am now reconvening the Governor's Commission on Public Safety.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Governor's Commission on Public Safety ("Commission") is hereby reconvened.

2. The Commission shall consist of 12 members, which includes the original seven members of the Commission appointed by Executive Order No. 11-06 and are described below in paragraphs (a) through (f).

If any of those original members are unable to serve, then the appointing authority shall appoint a replacement. In addition to the original seven members, there are five new members described below in paragraphs (g) through (k).
Accordingly, the 12 members of the Commission shall be appointed as follows:

a. The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court or his designee, appointed by the Chief Justice;
b. The Governor of Oregon or his designee, appointed by the Governor;
c. Each Co-Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, or their respective designee, appointed by each Co-Speaker;
d. The President of the Oregon Senate, or his designee;
e. A member of the Oregon Senate who is not a member of the same political party as the President, appointed by the President;
f. A member of the public to be appointed by a majority vote of the Commission members;
g. A district attorney appointed by the Oregon District Attorneys Association;
h. A criminal defense attorney appointed by the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association;
i. A law enforcement representative appointed jointly by the Oregon State Sheriffs Association and the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police;
j. A representative of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors; and
k. An active or senior circuit court judge appointed by the Chief Justice.

3. All members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority. The chair of the Commission will be appointed by the Governor and will serve as chair at the pleasure of the Governor. The chair shall develop a work plan, set the agenda, and provide leadership and direction for the Commission.

4. A quorum for Commission meetings shall consist of a majority of the members. The Commission shall make recommendations on an affirmative vote of a majority of its members.

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5. Using Article I, section 15, of the Oregon Constitution, and the other principles identified in the Commission's December 30, 2011, report the Commission shall identify fiscally responsible and sustainable, evidence-based policies and practices that will control corrections growth, hold offenders accountable, and protect public safety.

    a. The Commission may recommend any structural changes, sentencing changes, or allocation of funding changes that will control corrections growth, hold offenders accountable, and protect public safety necessary to implement these policies and practices.
    b. In developing its recommendations, the Commission may form workgroups.

6. The Commission shall produce a written report of recommendations to the Governor before 2013. The recommendations may include draft legislation for the Legislative Assembly to consider during its 2013 session.

7. The Commission shall participate in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (United States Department of Justice) and partner with the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Center on the States. The JRI assistance may provide data analysis; information on evidence-based practices in sentencing and corrections policies; assistance with Commission facilitation and engagement of the public, interested parties, and public safety stakeholders; development of policy options and modeling the impact of those options; development of a communications plan; and assistance in building public and policymaker support for the Commission's recommendations.

8. In addition to any partnership with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and the Oregon Department of Corrections shall provide staff support for the Commission. If the Commission requires assistance of any other State agency, board, or commission, then such agency, board, or commission shall provide assistance to the Commission upon request.

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9. The members of the Commission shall not receive per diem for their activities as members of the Commission, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending Commission business pursuant to ORS 292.495(2), subject to availability of funds.

10. This order expires on July 31, 2013.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 11 day of May, 2012.

John A. Kitzhaber, MD
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE