

U.S. Department of
Justice, Office of
Justice Programs,
Bureau of Justice
Assistance

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

1. ABBEY STAMP & COMMISSIONER JAYAPAL
2. NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTER
3. PORTLAND MAYOR TED WHEELER
4. PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU CHIEF OF POLICE
5. SOCIAL IMPACT
6. CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
7. MULTNOMAH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
8. LIVING CULLY
9. NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW INSTITUTE
10. BIENESTAR DE LA FAMILIA
11. LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES NORTHWEST
12. CULLY GROVE CO-HOUSING
13. METROPOLITAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT
14. PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Submitted by:





Commissioner Susheela Jayapal
District 2, North and Northeast Portland



Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

June 23, 2023

Karhlton Moore, Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Director Moore,

We, Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal and Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Executive Director Abbey Stamp, are thrilled to be collaborating in submitting this application for “Reimagining Justice, Testing a New Model of Community Safety.” (O-BJA-2023-171745). We will be even more thrilled to be a part of making it a reality.

Over the last few years, we have been looking for better ways to launch place-based solutions to public safety that do not assume or depend on the typical response of the criminal justice system. We know community-led solutions better meet the needs of each unique community and have spent many hours envisioning how we could move this shared vision forward. The “Reimagine Justice” grant opportunity is a rare opportunity to pilot our thinking in the Cully neighborhood, a community we both have deep professional and personal connections to. Commissioner Jayapal represents the Cully neighborhood and has been active there working to find innovative, resident and provider-led solutions to complex problems. Director Stamp was a graduate intern at Bienestar de la Familia (a County family resource center at the heart of the neighborhood) and later lived in Cully. We know Cully, from these and many other interactions, to be a strong, resilient neighborhood ready to craft their own solutions to shared concerns.

We are committed to work together to:

- Sponsor the project throughout the award period;
- Serve on the Leadership team with our lead community partner;
- Uplift community resident and provider voice to drive change;
- Fully fund all county staffing using County General Funds through, at least, the first year;
- Prioritize securing additional funds to maximize the allocation available for implementation;

- Commit county funds to support stipends and reimbursement to residents participating in the project, as well as other essential program components unallowable under BJA guidance; and,
- Deploy technical assistance developed through the Transforming Justice project

Thank you for your consideration of this project. We are excited to work together and are fully committed to the approach detailed in this application.



Susheela Jayapal
Commissioner, District 2
Multnomah County



Abbey Stamp, LCSW
Executive Director
Multnomah County Local Public
Safety Coordinating Council



Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218 | p 503.288.8177 | f 503.288.1260 | nayapdx.org

June 26, 2023

County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal and LSPCC Executive Director Abbey Stamp
Multnomah County
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Portland, OR 97214

County Commissioner Jayapal and Ms. Stamp:

The Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) enthusiastically commits to being the lead community-based partner for Multnomah County's "Reimagining Justice" proposal. Our project coordinator, supported by our management team and the Reimagining Justice Leadership Team, will utilize our campus and network of affordable housing and services in the Cully neighborhood as the project's hub, ensuring widespread community engagement. With our expertise in community-led planning, NAYA aligns perfectly with the project's objectives of enhancing community safety and developing alternatives to traditional justice responses. We are honored to contribute to its success.

NAYA has a robust presence in the Cully neighborhood, providing a safe gathering center for the Native American community on a 10-acre campus with deep historical significance. We have a strong track record in organizing and empowering the community, and as a Living Cully partner, we played a key role in establishing the Cully Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, establishing over \$350 million in anticipated funding for community-led projects prioritizing low-income residents and communities of color. Through our successful implementation of two community economic development programs in Cully, we have fostered strong connections within the local business community. Additionally, NAYA organizes the Indigenous-led Cully Farmers Market, attended by over 300 residents weekly throughout the summer. By participating in this project, we align our vision and commitment to the safety and well-being of Native American youth and families. Our aim is to explore alternative approaches to public safety that respect cultural identity and address community needs, contributing to economic prosperity and housing stability in the communities we serve.

Gun violence and lower-level crimes in Cully and other Multnomah County neighborhoods have negatively impacted community safety, particularly for Native American, Black, and people of color residents who fear and distrust traditional law enforcement resources. Unfortunately, we hear too often from our residents about vandalism, burglary, auto theft and even drive by shootings. This project aims to empower residents and address these issues through innovative approaches, creating a model of community engagement, collaboration, and livability. We eagerly anticipate working with Multnomah County and our Cully neighbors to turn this vision into reality.

Thank you for your thoughtful proposal review. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sky Waters, Community Development Manager at skyw@nayapdx.org or 503.288.8177 ext. 259

Sincerely,

Babtist Paul Lumley
Chief Executive Officer



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

June 22, 2023

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Reimagining Justice Grant Review Committee:

As the Mayor of Portland and Police Commissioner, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for Multnomah County's proposal in response to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) solicitation to "Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety." The County has selected the Cully neighborhood in NE Portland to launch this project which will develop and test neighborhood-led solutions and approaches to improve safety and build trust between community members and law enforcement. I understand the County's goal is to build a model aligned with Cully's community safety priorities by coordinating with law enforcement in a strategic effort to improve and shape public safety and community residents' perceptions of law enforcement.

Finding solutions using a community-led approach is a vital element to securing sustainable and effective public safety. This is particularly true in Portland, where civic engagement is a core tenet of what it means to be a Portlander. My administration works with several community groups on a regular basis to improve aspects of public safety and general livability, and these engagements have led to innovative solutions and helped the City on its path toward continuous improvement. The Cully neighborhood is on the precipice of transformation and would serve as a prime opportunity for endeavors like this.

The Reimagining Justice project is consistent with the City of Portland's values and incorporates a necessary emphasis on collaborating with residents and community members to enhance livability. As such, the City is fully supportive of this effort and happy to leverage its existing relationships in the neighborhood. This project may also align well with Prosper Portland's new Cully Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, approved by the Portland City Council in November 2022. The urban renewal plan crafted by neighbors is unique in its commitment to anti-

Bureau of Justice Assistance

June 22, 2023

Page 2

displacement work and supporting Cully's culturally and ethnically diverse residents while providing funding to improve their physical environment. As such, the community safety plan developed through a Reimagining Justice award would be a complementary effort with Portland's approach to urban planning.

Thank you for your consideration of this project and partnership. We look forward to collaborating with Multnomah County and our Cully residents to implement this important effort across the three-year project. Please contact my Director of Community Safety, Stephanie Howard, stephanie.howard@portlandoregon.gov, if we can provide additional context and/or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Wheeler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Ted Wheeler



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



Bureau of Police

Ted Wheeler, Mayor

Charles Lovell, Chief of Police

1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue • Portland, OR 97204 • Phone: 503-823-0000

Integrity • Compassion • Accountability • Respect • Excellence • Service

June 23, 2023

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Reimagining Justice Grant Review Committee:

As Chief of the Portland Police Bureau, I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment to support Multnomah County's proposal in response to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) solicitation to "*Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety*." We are excited about the opportunity to pilot the Transforming Justice vision recently finalized by LPSCC partners, including members of PPB's leadership, and fully support the selection of Cully neighborhood in Northeast Portland to launch this project. We are committed to actively engaging with community members and project partners to develop and test neighborhood-led solutions and approaches to improve safety and build trust between community members and law enforcement. These solutions and approaches will address low-level crimes as well as improve neighborhood understanding of the process our officers use to address more serious and/or violent crimes that may occur. The County's goal is to build a model aligned with Cully's community safety priorities by coordinating with law enforcement in a strategic effort to improve and shape public safety and community residents' perceptions of law enforcement.

I support this effort taking place in the Cully neighborhood, which is culturally and ethnically diverse. The Portland Police Bureau is working to strengthen relationships with diverse communities throughout the city, and efforts to partner with our community-based and law enforcement partners are always appreciated. We also realize that partnering to find collaborative solutions is often the most effective course of action.

The Reimagining Justice Project is fully aligned with Portland Police Bureau's values and provides an invaluable opportunity for us to strengthen our work collaborating with residents and community members to reduce crime, enhance livability, and increase police legitimacy. In support of this effort, PPB will assist with data, attend events and meetings in support of this effort, and assign a liaison from its North Precinct which serves the Cully neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration of this project and partnership. We look forward to partnering with Multnomah County and our Cully residents to implement this important effort across the three-year project. Please contact us if we can provide additional context and/or answer any questions:
Charles.Lovell@police.portlandoregon.gov

Best Regards,

Charles Lovell III
Chief of Police

Community Policing: Making the Difference Together
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City Information Line: 503-823-4000, TTY (for hearing and speech impaired): 503-823-6868 Website: www.portlandpolice.com



June 15, 2023

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear BJA Program Manager,

Social Impact is pleased to provide this letter of commitment to BJA to support Multnomah County as their research partner for their submission to “Reimagining Justice” (Opportunity O-BJA-2023-171745).

Social Impact has nearly 30 years of experience conducting rigorous program evaluations for Federal agencies and has also been a trusted partner of the City of Portland on its crime-combating initiatives. Social Impact stands out as a quality research partner not just because of our work-ethic and subjectivity, but we are also dedicated to utilization of evaluation findings and the critical attention paid up-front to ensure successful navigation of “last-mile” problems. For nearly 30 years, we have designed, implemented, and managed evaluations, assessments, and special studies across more than 100 countries and a wide range of social justice topics, such as corruption and crime prevention, trafficking in persons, and equity, diversity and inclusion (DEI).

As the research partner, Social Impact will work with the County to set up an implementation evaluation, as well as to build the pillars for an outcome/impact evaluation. This includes developing a program logic model or “theory of change,” identifying the data that is necessary to collect and executing data use agreements (DUAs) with the “owners” of the data (e.g., law enforcement, housing, welfare, etc.), identifying and collecting outcome data that go beyond arrests and convictions, creating and implementing fidelity checklists, ongoing data analysis, and creating and implementing sustainability plans. As a true partner, we will provide regular updates to the County, and serve as a continuous feedback loop so the County can adjust program elements to best meet the needs of the community; these updates will include internal and publicly facing presentations, data visualizations, regular status calls, and other mechanisms that meet the needs of the County, its stakeholders, and the criminal justice population more widely.

Moreover, we will create performance measures that extend beyond measuring the intervention and enable BJA and its stakeholders to appropriately measure the progress of the County. Social Impact will not only communicate results to the County, but also expect to meet on a quarterly basis with BJA and its stakeholders to report out findings and any updates to the evaluation process. Social Impact will also produce a range of deliverables that will be translated into practitioner-friendly, easily digestible products, as well as presentations on behalf of the County to a range of audiences.

The research team will be led by ***Principal Investigator (PI) Seri Irazola, Ph.D.***, an experienced criminal justice researcher with nearly two decades of experience evaluating DOJ-funded initiatives – including two for BJA (the Evaluation of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Program, or SAVIN, and the Evaluability Assessments of the BJA-funded Second Chance Adult Reentry Programs). Dr. Irazola is currently the Managing Director of Social Impact’s Domestic Research Domain, where she works across a range of social science research topics and with different technical and methodological capacities. Prior to joining Social Impact, she has served in PD and PI

roles across OJP program offices and served as the Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation for OJP program office the National Institute of Justice (NIJ, 2014 – 2017). She will bring her expertise to the project and ensure all implementation elements are measured and refined, and ready for replication in similarly-situated communities. The ultimate goal of the research partner is to understand whether and how the initiative works, in what situations and for which populations, and under what conditions.

We appreciate your consideration of this project and Social Impact’s partnership with Multnomah County and the residents of Cully across the three-year period of performance. Please contact us if we can provide additional context and/or answer any questions: sirazola@socialimpact.com.

Thank you,



Sirazola

Managing Director

503.425.4475 | 503.425.4475 | 503.425.4475 | 503.425.4475 | 503.425.4475

Seri Irazola, Ph.D.
Managing Director, Domestic Research Services
Social Impact



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2023

The Honorable Karlhlon F. Moore
Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Director Moore,

I write to express my support for Multnomah County's application for the *Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety* grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

As Oregon's most populous county, Multnomah County is responsible for ensuring health, safety, and community service initiatives to 20% of Oregon's residents. Specifically, the Cully Neighborhood in Northeast Portland has been selected as an ideal candidate for this grant program. Over the past few years, community members, local businesses, and elected officials have come together, forging a one-of-a-kind partnership to redevelop the neighborhood without further displacing residents.

Reimagining Justice grant funds will allow the Cully neighborhood to build on their unique community coalition to facilitate a modern approach to criminal justice that is human centered and community lead. At the same time, funding will ensure the Cully neighborhood's experience is documented so the framework may be replicated in neighborhoods across the country.

Moreover, Portlanders have been on the cutting edge of criminal justice reform. From cannabis legalization and decriminalizing small quantities of controlled substances, to dispatching mental health professionals to non-violent emergency calls, the community is primed and would welcome the opportunity to further improve our criminal justice system.

I ask that you give Multnomah County's Reimagining Justice grant application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



MIKE SCHMIDT, District Attorney for Multnomah County

1200 SW 1st Avenue, 5200 County Central Courthouse • Portland, Oregon 97204 • 503 988-3162 • FAX 503 988-3643
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June 21, 2023

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Reimagining Justice Grant Review Committee,

As Multnomah County's District Attorney, I am excited to add my support to Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) and Commissioner Jayapal's application to BJA's *"Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety."*

This project is focused on reducing the criminal justice footprint in Multnomah County by partnering with neighborhoods to address high rates of low-level crime. The County aims to accomplish this by introducing innovative approaches to traditional enforcement methods, consistent with the vision developed through the Transforming Justice project, which my office was actively involved in developing. To pilot this effort, the County chose the Cully neighborhood, which embodies many of Portland's unique qualities as well as its societal and political tensions. As such, Cully is an ideal neighborhood to implement and test the initiative, and it has signed a letter of commitment to make this grant possible.

BJA's grant funds will facilitate identifying priorities and engaging residents and visitors in a neighborhood-led approach to increase trust and communication between residents and law enforcement, empower residents, and reduce crime in Cully. My office created a Restorative Justice program in 2021 that will be integrated into this project and aligns with the County's Transforming Justice program, created by its LPSCC.

Based on our shared goals for reducing crime across Multnomah County and beyond and increasing resident engagement and safety, I fully support the County's grant proposal and appreciate your consideration of their application for this three-year grant.

Respectfully,

Mike Schmidt
Multnomah County District Attorney



June 26, 2023

County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal and LSPCC Executive Director Abbey Stamp
Multnomah County
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Portland, OR 97214

County Commissioner Jayapal and Ms. Stamp,

Living Cully is pleased to support Multnomah County's "Reimagining Justice" proposal, which aims to create neighborhood-led solutions for community safety, alternative responses to low-level crime, and improved trust between residents and law enforcement. As an organization committed to improving the quality of life in the Cully neighborhood, we are aligned with these goals.

Gun violence and lesser-known crimes like vandalism and burglary continue to impact our community. The Cully Reimagining Justice project fills a critical gap by empowering residents with innovative approaches to address these issues. We are fully committed to being part of the solution.

Living Cully, a collaboration formed in 2010, actively combats gentrification and displacement in the Cully neighborhood. Our efforts focus on community-led improvements, economic benefits, ecological initiatives, and social support. Through the preservation of affordable housing units and environmental justice initiatives, we have made significant contributions to the stability and well-being of our residents.

Our successful community engagement includes transformative projects like Let Us Build Cully Park (LUBCP!), which turned a former landfill into a vibrant green space supporting cultural expression, education, and economic opportunities. We also established the Cully Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, which aims to provide safe and affordable housing, economic opportunities, and community resilience for historically displaced communities.

Living Cully is particularly interested in implementing an effective community-based safety model in the Cully neighborhood. Our focus is on creating a safer environment, building trust between residents and law enforcement, and supporting the well-being of people of color and low-income individuals. By actively involving the community in addressing lower-level crime, we strive to preserve cultural diversity and ensure a thriving and inclusive neighborhood.

As an implementation partner, Living Cully eagerly looks forward to supporting the project. We will engage in community activities, facilitate dialogues, and help identify residents and organizations for engagement efforts. Our experience with the successful TIF district approval strengthens our approach, which is community-driven and values-based. We recognize the importance of committed residents, innovation, and solutions in the project's success.

Thank you for considering this project. We are excited to partner with Multnomah County and our Cully neighbors to transform this proposal into a reality.

Sincerely,

Candace Avalos
Executive Director
Verde

Babtist Paul Lumley
Chief Executive Officer
NAYA Family Center

Jaclyn Sarna
Chief Operating Officer
Hacienda

Steve Messinetti
President and CEO
Habitat for Humanity Portland



VIA EMAIL ONLY

June 25, 2023

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

RE: Support for Application of Multnomah County for the *Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety* Grant

Dear Review Committee:

I write to support Multnomah County in their application to BJA to obtain funding for the “*Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety*” grant. The County’s focus on the Cully neighborhood for implementation of this initiative prior to testing, refining and replicating it in other areas of the County with as much or more need is a positive approach.

The National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) is a national nonprofit educational and advocacy organization based in Portland, Oregon – Multnomah County. At NCVLI, our work focuses on empowering survivors of crime to have the agency and dignity they need to create and choose paths to survivorship. This work includes connecting crime victims with no cost legal services so that survivors can have the assistance they need to make informed decisions, and to have those decisions honored and respected throughout legal systems.

A core value of NCVLI is collaboration - which is why we are excited by the Proposed Project. Bringing together Cully residents who are or may be fearful of their safety in Cully, including crime victim-survivors, and giving them a voice to identify solutions to improving the resident-law enforcement relationship, is one step towards creating a model of community safety that empowers residents and hopefully reduces crime in Cully.

Based on our shared goal for providing County residents with a safe environment in which their voices have power, NCVLI supports the County’s proposal and will provide support along the way. Please contact me at garvin@lclark.edu or 503.768.6953 if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Meg Garvin, MA, JD, MsT
Executive Director

Bienestar de La Familia, Youth and Family Services Division.

June 23, 2023

Dear Commissioner Jayapal and Ms. Stamp

As the Director Multnomah County's Bienestar de la Familia program located in the Cully neighborhood, I want to thank you for pursuing BJA's "*Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety*" funding. The project's focus on empowering our residents, particularly the most vulnerable, and giving them the tools and support they need to craft their own vision of a safe neighborhood is timely and important. It is also a model we know can work, and Bienestar de la Familia will support you and your efforts in every way.

Bienestar de La Familia, Social Services program was established in 1998 in the heart of the Cully neighborhood to serve the County's Latino community. Since that time, we have expanded our work to serve the Somali community and other immigrant and refugee families, as well as all residents of the Cully neighborhood. We offer mental health and addiction services, case management, after school programs for teens and host a monthly distribution of produce. Our success, however, is measured beyond these program components - we measure it by the generations of families that have come to trust us and share their stories, dreams, and fears.

Many of these stories are directly related to the goals of the Reimagining Justice project. We know our families experience hatred and racism, poverty, violence, trauma, and xenophobia. While they share their fears with us, their voices are seldom heard elsewhere. I know first hand these experiences are rarely reported to law enforcement due to any number of factors, including: fear, language barriers, and lack of trust of systems and people who make up our public safety system. We will fully collaborate with your project to engage our families in the process and support them throughout their involvement, knowing that they, and the entire community, will benefit.

Please do not hesitate to contact my staff or me if you have any questions we can assist you with - and look forward to being partners in this project.

Sincerely,



Nabil Zaghoul

Bienestar De La Familia Program Social Services Director,
Youth & Family Services.
Multnomah County, Department of County Human Services.

[\(503\) 988.6079](tel:5039886079) Office 1

[\(503\) 988.6779](tel:5039886779) Office 2

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[\(503\) 988.3710](tel:5039883710) Fax

421 SW Oak Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204-1810

Letter of Support



**MULTICULTURAL
COMMUNITY
SERVICES OF:**

Portland, OR

605 SE Cesar E. Chavez Blvd.
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Phone: 503/ 231-7480
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Seattle, WA

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Everett, WA

Trinity Lutheran Church.
2324 Lombard Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

Phone: 425/ 258-9750
Fax: 425/258-6271



June 24, 2023

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Reimagining Justice Grant Review Committee,

Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) is writing to express our unwavering support to Multnomah County in their application for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant for *“Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety.”* Our key values of compassion, inclusion, integrity, stewardship and interdependence align with the vision of Transforming Justice.

The proposal is a unique opportunity to pilot LPSCC’s Transforming Justice project, which has created a singular vision among public safety partners. LCSNW recently launched a Restorative Justice program that aligns well with the proposal’s approach to public safety, aiming to give voice to victims and repair the harm caused in lieu of pursuing punishment, pre-arrest. This project also aligns well with LCSNW’s victim services programming, which focuses on the region’s immigrant and refugee communities, but serves anyone who has been impacted by crime. As such, we welcome this grant’s ability to expand these values to the Cully neighborhood and provide a model for other neighborhoods and are eager to express our support and in whatever capacity we are able.

Thank you for your consideration and respectfully encourage you to fully and fairly consider the County for the Reimagining Justice project. Please contact us if we can provide additional context and/or answer any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mindy Johnston". Below the signature is a small, faint watermark that says "Scanned with CamScanner".

Mindy Johnston (she/hers)
Program Director, Transforming Justice & Healing
Lutheran Community Services Northwest
605 SE Cesar Estrada Chavez Blvd
Portland, OR 97214
971-888-7832
mjohnston@lcsnw.org
www.lcsnw.org

David Sweet
4759 NE Going Street
Portland, OR 97218

Phone:(503) 493-9434

cullyguy@gmail.com

June 26, 2023

Commissioner Jayapal,

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for Multnomah County's "Reimagining Justice" proposal being submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The project's goals to create neighborhood-led solutions to improve community safety, create alternatives to traditional criminal justice responses for low-level crime, and build trust between community members and law enforcement are uniquely aligned with Cully's approach to community building.

Gun violence continues to impact Cully, as well as other neighborhoods across Multnomah County. While not as well known, lower-level crimes such as vandalism and burglary, as well as catalytic converter theft, auto theft and porch piracy have also risen and have a dramatic impact on my community's sense of safety. The Cully Reimagining Justice project hopes to empower residents to address these issues through innovative new approaches, filling a critical gap in our community. I am committed to being a part of that solution.

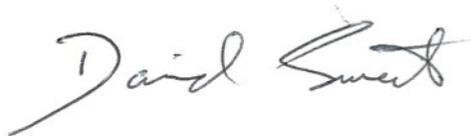
I am a neighborhood activist and a resident of the Cully Grove Cohousing Community. Cully is an unusually cohesive neighborhood blessed with a rich and vibrant diversity that much of Portland lacks. Some of our neighbors came to Cully after being displaced from more central neighborhoods by urban renewal, lack of housing choice and rising property values. We are also blessed with a wealth of place-based community organizations who work together to prevent the displacement of vulnerable families from Cully.

NAYA, the Native American Youth and Family Center, has recently opened three new affordable housing developments with over 150 apartments. Last year Hacienda CDC opened Las Adelitas with 142 apartments on the site of the former Sugar Shack strip club. Habitat for Humanity Portland Metro has completed three affordable home-ownership communities in Cully and is planning another. The Living Cully Coalition engineered the purchase of two of our six mobile home parks by a nonprofit and championed the creation of a manufactured home zoning designation to limit redevelopment options for all mobile home parks. Verde built 25-acre Cully Park on the site of a former landfill. Our two Neighborhood Prosperity Districts, Our 42nd Avenue and the Cully Boulevard Alliance have leveraged their modest budgets to help small BIPOC-owned businesses to start up and expand.

These community organizations along with other neighbors worked for four years to develop a plan for a Community-Led Development District in Cully. We engaged our community to learn what strategies are most needed to help people of color, indigenous and tribal people, and low-income people to thrive in Cully. That plan, funded by tax increment financing, begins operation next week. It will turn urban renewal upside down by preferentially benefiting the very people who have frequently been displaced by it.

The Cully community has demonstrated the ability to make effective use of resources and will be an able partner for this project. Upon award, we will participate in convening activities to inform the community about the project and help identify the residents and organizations who will design and conduct engagement efforts. This work will be strengthened by Cully's recently approved Urban Renewal application, a community-driven and values-based process that honored our joint commitment to building on Cully's strengths and supporting our diverse residents. Using lessons learned from this successful effort, we will also help facilitate community engagement with our participants and their families as well as identify community activities and forums to engage additional individuals in this important dialog. We understand the success of this project is dependent on committed residents with the linkages and vision to encourage innovation and solutions - and are proud to be a part of the effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. I look forward to partnering with Multnomah County, our community organizations and our Cully neighbors to make this proposal a reality.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Sweet". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

June 23, 2023

Commissioner Jayapal and Ms. Stamp:

I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment of Multnomah ESD's support for the County's "Reimagining Justice" proposal being submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The project's goals of creating neighborhood-led solutions to improve community safety, creating alternatives to traditional criminal justice responses for low-level crime, and building trust between community members and law enforcement in the Cully neighborhood are issues that hit close to home for our agency.

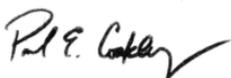
Multnomah ESD is the educational provider for the Multnomah County Jail as well as the County's Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center. As such, we have a first-hand perspective on links between community safety, criminal justice, and our youth. We also run Helensview School, an alternative high school that serves many students who have criminal histories or who are gang-impacted. Helensview is located just adjacent to Cully, and we see the impact of increased crime on our students as well as the local community.

Gun violence continues to impact Cully, as well as other neighborhoods across Multnomah County. While not as well known, lower-level crimes such as vandalism, burglary, and auto theft have also risen and often go unreported, which has a dramatic impact on the community's sense of safety. The Cully Reimagining Justice project will work to empower residents to address these issues through innovative new approaches, filling a critical gap in our community. We are committed to being a part of that solution.

MESD looks forward to being a supporter and partner for this project in the Cully neighborhood. Upon award, we will encourage participation in all engagement activities and inform community members about the project and encourage their participation. We are also uniquely situated to help youth engage in the process. We understand the importance of community engagement and the level of effort needed to build trust for this work.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. We look forward to being a part of this forward-thinking project and working with Multnomah County and our Cully neighbors to make its vision a reality.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Coakley
Superintendent

Superintendent *Dr. Paul Coakley*

Board of Directors *Renee Anderson • Jessica Arzate • Kristin Cornuelle • Katrina Doughty • Dr. Samuel Henry • Denyse Peterson • Helen Ying*

11611 NE Ainsworth Circle • Portland, Oregon 97220 • (503) 255-1841 • MultnomahESD.org



June 26, 2023

Sage Learn
Portland Community College
12000 SW 49th Ave
Portland, OR 97219

Commissioner Jayapal,

Portland Community College (PCC) is pleased to submit this letter of support for Multnomah County's "Reimagining Justice" proposal being submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The project's goals to create neighborhood-led solutions to improve community safety, create alternatives to traditional criminal justice responses for low-level crime, and build trust between community members and law enforcement are uniquely aligned with Cully's approach to community building.

Gun violence continues to impact Cully, as well as other neighborhoods across Multnomah County. While not as well known, lower-level crimes such as vandalism, burglary, and auto theft have also risen, which often go unreported, and have a dramatic impact on the community's sense of safety. The Cully Reimagining Justice project hopes to empower residents to address these issues through innovative new approaches, filling a critical gap in our community. We are committed to being a part of that solution.

Portland Community College supports student success by delivering access to quality education while advancing economic development and promoting sustainability in a collaborative culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The college has a longstanding partnership with Multnomah County to help serve both PCC students and the larger Community.

Portland Community College looks forward to being a partner for this project. Upon award, we will participate in and support meetings and convening activities to inform the community about the project and help identify the residents and organizations who will design and conduct engagement efforts. We understand the success of this project is dependent on committed residents with the linkages and vision to encourage innovation and solutions - and are proud to be a part of the effort and look forward to potential learning opportunity for PCC students to participate in the creation of this pilot.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. We look forward to partnering with Multnomah

[Portland Community College](#) ♦ [P.O. Box 19000, Portland, Oregon 97208](#) ♦ [pcc.edu](#) ♦ [971-722-6111](#)

PCC is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Institution.

County and our Cully neighbors to make this proposal a reality.

Sincerely,

Sage Learn

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