

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL (MCPSCC)

Executive Council Meeting

Minutes December 16, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Commissioners Boardroom, Courthouse Square, Salem, Oregon

MCPSCC: Colm Willis, Trevor Womack, Olcott Thompson, Tracy Prall, Jace Hall, Michael Runyon, Troy Gregg, Mike Hartford, James Edmonds, Allison Kelley, Nick Hunter, Peter McCallum, Frank Lonergan, and Ryan Matthews

Guests: Brendan Murphy, Trevor Lane, and Gary White.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

-All

Announcements

- Transition of the presiding judge from Judge Tracy Prall to Judge James Edmonds.
- Appreciate the years of collaboration, adaptability throughout crises and for maintaining essential functions through difficult times.

Updates

- N/A

3. WALLACE MARINE PARK

-Sheriff Hunter & Chief Womack

- Concerns centered around Wallace Marine Park:
 - Persistent issues with criminal behavior, especially affecting unhoused populations.
- Culture within the park reportedly discourages reporting crimes:
 - Fosters sense of fear among residents, especially those victimized in the park.
- Need a coordinated response by agencies from different jurisdictions:
 - City, county, and state, as well as law enforcement and judicial branches.
- Challenges including livability crimes, theft, and substance issues:
 - Longstanding and require cross-agency cooperation.
- Need to address systemic failures:
 - Reluctance or fear to report crime.
- Need to address operational hurdles:
 - Overlapping jurisdictions.
- Efforts being made to analyze root causes by collecting data from various sources:
 - Law enforcement records.
 - Open source/social media channels.
 - Map out trends and inform strategies.
- Policy recommendations:
 - Form collaborative groups with courts, public defense, city and county officials.
 - Include public health perspectives to address criminal and public safety concerns.
 - Funding and resource constraints are limiting factors:
 - Especially for smaller jurisdictions like Polk County.

- Important to support public safety funding through levies and grants.
- Priorities include improving reporting, data analysis, and proactive policing models:
 - Such as expanding enforcement and homeless outreach teams.

4. DEFENSE ATTORNEY UPDATE

-Olcott Thompson & Judge Edmonds

Summary of presentation:

- Significant strain on public defense resources:
 - Notable number of people unrepresented pretrial.
- Gaps caused by contract negotiations and public defense providers and authorities disputes:
 - Results in uneven case acceptance and workload imbalances.
- Changes in contractual language shifted enforcement expectations:
 - Creates uncertainty in system operations and attorney compensation.
- Defense providers challenges:
 - Decisions on case intake, compensation, and capacity to meet community needs.
- Ongoing crisis compounded by litigation and changing provider dynamics:
 - Efforts to raise local resources by drawing in attorneys from elsewhere in the state.
- Coordination among courts, providers, and administrative agencies is critical:
 - Adapt to contract and strive for representation to those in the criminal justice system.

5. HIGH ENFORCEMENT ACTION TEAM (HEAT) TEAM STATUS

-District Attorney Clarkson & Sheriff Hunter

Summary of presentation:

- HEAT is a model targeting high-risk criminal conduct:
 - Especially firearms-related offenses and drug crimes.
 - Emphasis on a coordinated, data-driven approach across agencies.
- Balance resources:
 - Analyst and officer work on Park issues drawn from existing enforcement efforts:
 - Temporarily slowing progress elsewhere.
 - Police/judicial resources continually assessed for coverage downtown Salem and the park.
- Efforts to avoid shifting problems from one area to another:
 - Ensure proactive enforcement and diversion/livability solutions remain in scope.
- Require ongoing partnership between police departments and sheriffs' offices:
 - Prosecutors, defense, social services, and external agencies.
- Success in getting grants for:
 - Organized retail theft enforcement.
 - Expanded training for business loss-prevention staff.
 - Increasing team and cleanup crew coverage:
 - All requires careful budgeting and inter-agency collaboration.
- Future plans:
 - Expansion of patrol resources.
 - Additional data analysis.
 - Explore new funding or grants for more effective interventions.

6. REVIEW AND APPROVE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

-Commissioner Willis

- Important to schedule regular meetings and have full participation from all jurisdictions:
 - Especially for complex, unresolved issues like those at Wallace Marine Park.
- Dialogue, even without immediate solutions helps align and ready for future policy action.

7. REVIEW & APPROVE JANUARY 13, 2026, AGENDA DRAFT

-All

- Focus on Wallace Marine Park.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination and inviting stakeholders, like Polk County.
- Discuss outstanding challenges, even if all decisions cannot be made immediately.
- Build comprehensive understanding of issues.
- Facilitate collaborative problem-solving remain central goals for upcoming session.
- Flexibility encouraged in setting the agenda:
 - Emerging issues and stakeholder concerns can also be addressed constructively.

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting.