

## **NEWS RELEASE**



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**DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: October 31, 2009 12:00**

**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: November 12, 2009 / 11:30 A.M.**

**NATURE OF STORY: Significant decreases in capacity based releases from the Lane County Jail.**

**LOCATION: Lane County Adult Corrections Facility  
101 W 5<sup>th</sup> - Eugene, OR**

### **DETAILS:**

**The Lane County Adult Corrections Facility reopened an 84 bed housing unit on August 1, 2009. The 84-bed unit, referred to as the "North Annex," consists of two direct supervision, medium custody dormitories.**

**The housing unit was closed in May of 2008 and remained closed due to lack of funding. On August 1 of this year, the unit reopened and was funded using re-authorized federal timber payments that Lane County received as a result of efforts in Washington, DC by our congressional delegation which included Senator Wyden, Congressman DeFazio, and Senator Merkley. The Lane County Board of Commissioners voted in June to use some of these funds to operate the 84-bed housing unit.**

**Because of a federal consent decree the Lane County Jail may only utilize 93% of the total jail beds available. Opening the North Annex represented an overall capacity increase of 78 additional jail beds. The entire expanded capacity is being used for local offenders who are either on "pretrial" status or serving a sentence of less than one year.**

**Due to the lack of funded capacity to hold them, during Fiscal Year 08/09, 4,565 inmates were released early from the Lane County Jail. Although only three months have elapsed since the reopening of the 84 beds in August, the numbers have been very promising. Since that time, the jail has experienced significant decreases in the number of Capacity Based Releases (CBR) compared to the same period of time in 2008.**

**Overall, CBRs have been reduced by 22% when compared with the same three months in 2008. In 2008, 1,329 defendants and offenders were released during the months of August, September, and October. This is compared to 1,031 inmates during August, September and October of this year. The average number of defendants and offenders CBRd per day during the same three months in 2008 was 14.44. The average number of defendants and offenders CBRd since the addition of the 84 beds in August is down to 11.21 per day.**

**More important than the overall improvement in CBR numbers, are the types of offenders that are not being released from jail after the 84 beds opened in August.**

**Since August 1, 2009, no (0) pretrial Measure 11 defendants have been released. Compared to the same three month period in 2008, 7 pretrial Measure 11 offenders were released. Measure 11 crimes include Rape 1 & 2, Robbery 1 & 2, Kidnapping 1 & 2, Assault 1 & 2, Sodomy 1 & 2, Kidnapping 1 & 2, Sex Abuse 1, Unlawful Sexual Penetration 1 & 2, Murder, and Manslaughter 1 & 2.**

**The number of Measure 11 offenders who were in jail on a probation violation and were CBRd improved by 80% from 2008 to 2009. In 2008, during the three month period of August, September and October, 10 offenders were released due to overcrowding. In the same period in 2009, two (2) of these types of offenders were released due to overcrowding.**

**There were no (0) CBRs of pretrial defendants that are statutorily defined as “violent felons” during August, September, or October of 2009. This represents a 100% improvement over the same period of time in 2008, when the number of CBRs for this category of defendants was 59.**

**The Risk Assessment Tool used to determine who is CBR'd assesses defendants' risk for being a danger to the community. Based on monthly averages for 2008, the total number of defendants and offenders CBRd in a three month period, which the Risk Assessment Tool determined to be at high risk for being a danger**

to the community, was 204. The actual number of defendants and offenders CBRd in the high risk for being dangerous category since August 1, 2009 has been 25. This represents an 88% improvement in the number of dangerous defendants and offenders released early into the community.

The number of sentenced offenders CBRd in August, September, and October 2008 was 231. In the same three month period in 2009, this number was 154. That is a 33% improvement. In 2008, those sentenced offenders who were CBRd only served an average of 28% of their sentences. Since August 1, 2009 the smaller number of sentenced offenders being CBRd has served an average of 38% of their sentences. With the goal of having inmates serve 100% of their sentence, serving 10% more of their sentence is still a 36% improvement.

As indicated by the data collected so far, the additional beds represent a significant improvement for public safety in Lane County. However, it is projected that there will still be at least 3,850 capacity based releases during this fiscal year. According to the latest FBI crime statistics released June 1, 2009, at an increase of 25.8% of property crime from 2007 to 2008, Eugene ranked as the city with the highest increase in the nation among the 266 cities included in the report. Eugene also experienced a 16.4% increase in violent crime, while the nation as a whole experienced a 1.6% decrease. The 84 added jail beds have specifically been used to keep the most violent offenders in custody, and although we may see the additional capacity have some positive influence on violent crimes committed locally, it is likely that the recent increase in capacity will not, by itself have much of an impact on property crimes.

The jail continues to have a 72-bed housing unit that will remain closed due to a lack of funds needed to operate it. In addition, the Community Corrections Center (CCC), Lane County's work release center that houses sentenced inmates, will continue to operate only 33 of the 122 beds in the facility. The CCC beds and the 100 bed Forest Work Camp, which was closed during the spring of 2008, will remain closed due to the lack of needed funding.

Prepared by: Captain Doug Hooley