

BE IT REMEMBERED, that at a regular term of the Board of Commissioners of the State of Oregon, for the County of Union, sitting for the transaction of County business, begun and held at the Joseph Building Annex in the City of La Grande, in said County and State, on Wednesday of said month and the time fixed by law for holding a regular term of said Commission, when were present:

The Honorable	<u>R. Matthew Scarfo</u>	<u>Chair</u>
	<u>Donna Beverage</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>
	<u>Paul Anderes</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>

WHEN, on Wednesday the 15th day of September, 2021, among others the following proceedings were had to wit:

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL )	
STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN UNION COUNTY DUE )	RESOLUTION
TO FORSEEABLE INADEQUATE STAFFING NECESSARY )	2021-16
TO PROVIDE FOR BASIC NEEDS OF HEALTH, PUBLIC )	
SAFETY, AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE )	

WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exhausted many providers of core public services, including first responders, healthcare providers, emergency services, public health, and public safety, among many others; and

WHEREAS the recent surge of COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant has further strained those crucial services, filling our hospitals with COVID-19 patients; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to address this new surge, the State of Oregon has attempted to further increase the percentage of Oregonians who are vaccinated by imposing vaccine mandates on certain sectors, including those who work within elements of the healthcare, emergency services, and public safety systems; and

WHEREAS those efforts may have incentivized additional Oregonians to obtain vaccinations; however, those efforts now appear to have the unintended consequence of causing some of the exhausted workforce in those critical public health and safety systems to leave employment; and


WHEREAS our local healthcare facilities and emergency services are reliant on both local staff and the proper function and capacity of the regional healthcare network; and

WHEREAS concerns exist that there will be insufficient remaining resources to provide basic public health and safety services, such as the operation of jails, pre-hospital emergency services (for example, traffic crashes, medical emergencies) and more; now, therefore, in accordance with ORS 401.309,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- (1) A state of emergency is declared within Union County due to the immediately foreseeable lack of adequate resources to respond to basic needs for public health and safety services; and
- (2) This state of emergency is limited to the period of time during which the conditions described above remain in existence; and
- (3) It is requested that the State of Oregon now withdraw its COVID-19 vaccine mandates to prevent further loss of the vital public health and safety workforce; and
- (4) Alternatively, it is requested that Union County be exempted from the COVID-19 vaccine mandates, returning power over that matter to Union County as the local public health authority.

DATED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

  
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R. Matthew Scarfo, CHAIR

  
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Donna Beverage, COMMISSIONER

  
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Paul Anderes, COMMISSIONER