

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF OAKRIDGE

November 17, 2022

To: The City of Oakridge, Oregon

We, the undersigned citizens of Oakridge, are concerned of a perceived increase of property crimes within our area, and of how these property crimes are being currently addressed by the Lane County District Attorney. The following quotes are taken from an article by Chris M Letman, a reporter of KLCC, dated July 31, 2022. We welcome all those interested to read, in full, his article entitled: "Lane County DA's office won't prosecute certain crimes due to staffing shortage." There are additional reports from a number of other news outlets in line with Mr. Letman's article.

Lane County District Attorney Patty Perlow has stated, due to a shortage of prosecutors in her office, nonviolent offenders of property crime will not be charged: "So for now, her attorneys won't prosecute certain crimes, including disorderly conduct, driving while suspended, and property crimes." There may remain some exceptions to this stated policy - however, we suggest when the District Attorney's office publicly puts out such a statement, it is counter productive. When a nonviolent offender of a property crime is not caught, or not prosecuted when required, it is understandable that person may be motivated to continue stealing personal property, to include break-ins, and a chance of becoming a violent offender in the future. We appreciate our local police department continues to investigate all reported property crimes.

Again, what the District Attorney reported to have said: "I would anticipate that it would take about a year to get the entry-level lawyers up to speed to be able to handle the volume of cases that we would want them to, and to continue to promote them into handling a felony caseload," she said. "Assuming I don't lose any more lawyers, and I'm able to fill the two vacancies that I still have, I would say it's probably going to be a couple of years before we're to capacity." It will be others, in the end, who will evaluate the validity of the District Attorney's above reason for this policy of not investigating or prosecuting nonviolent property crime - either be it lack of competency of her office, or a situation that she has no direct ability to help solve.

Yet, in the immediate future, we the undersigned, request the City of Oakridge do all it can to further address concerns relating to property crime. Suggest "a couple of years"- maybe, is not a reasonable time frame regarding a better outcome of this issue. An organized, city- wide promotion of local "watch groups" with the help and close participation of our city police department, might be considered. Another suggestion, would be a publicly stated policy that our police department continues to investigate and arrest, anyone who breaks the law - regardless if it ends up dismissed as a "no file" within the office of the Lane County District Attorney.

Regards,

The undersigned

Signatures to the letter: Concerned Citizens of Oakridge, dated November 17, 2022

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[Handwritten initials]

Gayle Mather

Ann Hasted

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John Roddy

Kathleen Lynx

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Richard A. Gootman

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John P. Myers

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Grace Kelly

Katrina Sugar

Pam Kinglund

ROBERT PHILLIPS

SAICHON THEAKWANYUEN

Georg Mueller

Richard Kinglund

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Michael Dodge

Forest Dinsed

Rick Walmsley

Ceri W. E...

Mary Jane

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Jeremy Teom

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P. Callahan



Jerry Carter



Duke Samma
