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4 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
5 **FOR POLK COUNTY, OREGON**
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8 In the Matter of)
9 Supporting a Recovery-Oriented)
10 Systems of Care in Responding)
11 To the Addictions, Mental Health)
12 And Homelessness Crisis)
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15 **RESOLUTION NO. 23-06**
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18 **WHEREAS**, Polk County has identified alcohol and drugs, crime, and untreated mental illness,
19 of which unmanaged homeless encampments and conditions are a symptom, as top threats to the
20 health, safety and flourishing of all of its residents; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Polk County believes in the dignity and worth of all of its residents, and the
22 overarching good that is achieved when residents are on a path toward the realization of their full
23 potential; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Polk County acknowledges that those struggling with homelessness in the mid-
25 Willamette region and throughout Oregon may also contend with the complex diseases of mental
26 illness and/or addiction, whether a precursor to or a result of homelessness; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General specifically describes addiction as a brain disorder
28 or disease that results in reduced brain function, that inhibits an individual's ability to make
29 decisions and regulate their actions, emotions, and impulses, and furthermore, that changes in the
30 brain persist long after substance use stops; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Polk County recognizes a housing focus is important, but alone will not
32 mitigate mental illness or addiction, and the nature of addiction and serious mental illness can
33 make sufferers unable to recognize their own illnesses or seek help willingly; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Polk County agrees that open air drug scenes create an environment that is
35 incompatible with safe, clean and vibrant public spaces, and make recovery from addiction much
36 more difficult; and

37 **WHEREAS**, Polk County believes that all people have a right to clean, safe and vibrant
38 public spaces, as well as safe emergency shelter when needed; and


39 **WHEREAS**, Polk County believes that harm reduction services, when not antithetical to a
40 recovery-oriented system of care, can be effective in saving lives. However, it must exist within a full
41 continuum of compassionate care that includes prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery for
42 those suffering from addiction; and

43 **WHEREAS**, Polk County believes that recovery is possible and most will recover if
44 presented with the aforementioned continuum of care.
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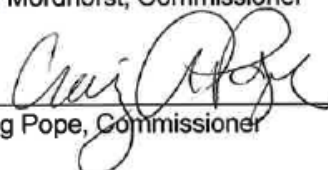
1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2 that all efforts to address homelessness in which the County and its employees engage must be
3 data driven and concentrated on helping all residents participate in realizing their full human
4 potential by ensuring shelter and psychiatric and addiction care for all who need it, and by protecting
5 public spaces for the use of the entire community.
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10 Dated May 31, 2023 at Dallas, Oregon.
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18 **POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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24 Jeremy Gordon, Chairman

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28 Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner

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Craig Pope, Commissioner

26 Approved as to Form:

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29 _____
30 Morgan Smith
31 County Counsel