

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1317**

Amending Chapter 25 to Establish a Waste, Inefficiency and Abuse Hotline for Multnomah County.

(Language ~~stricken~~ is deleted; underlined language is new.)

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. The efficient, professional, and legitimate delivery of services is a priority. Organizations with hotlines experience fraud losses significantly lower than organizations without hotlines.
- b. Oregon law provides that as the governing body for Multnomah County, the Board of County Commissioners may establish a waste hotline. The statutes also lay out how the hotline should be operated, including placing notices, explaining the purpose of the hotline, establishing policies and procedures for logging all reports received, conducting initial investigations, maintaining confidentiality, and reporting requirements for findings of potential waste, inefficiencies or abuse. In addition, one key function of the hotline is to direct complaints to agencies to investigate and follow up. See ORS 297.760-765.
- c. In 2007, the Multnomah County Auditor established the Good Government Hotline to provide county employees and the public with a confidential method for reporting suspected fraud, waste, inefficiency and abuse by county government. Four years later the Oregon legislature passed ORS 297.760 "Establishment of local government waste hotline" and ORS 297.765 "Policies and procedures for local government waste hotline; confidentiality; required reporting." The Auditor has operated the hotline in accordance with these state laws continuously since 2007.
- d. The Board, Chair, and Auditor recognize that hotlines are effective reporting mechanisms and are an integral part of government accountability. Each independently elected official seeks to continue operation of the Good Government Hotline in accordance with their separate authorities identified in sections e, f, and g below.
- e. The Multnomah County Charter Section 6.10 provides that the County Chair is "the chief executive officer and personnel officer of the county". The Chair is vested with the "sole authority to appoint, order, direct and discharge administrative officers and employees of the county" and retains "full responsibility for the acts of the chair's subordinates". The Charter further states that the Chair will "execute the policies of the board and the ordinances of the county".
- f. As the governing body for Multnomah County, the Board of County Commissioners formally recognizes and establishes the Good Government Hotline under ORS 297.760 as a method for employees and the public to report waste, inefficiency or abuse to promote and protect services at Multnomah County.

g. The Auditor consents to continue operating the Good Government Hotline as a service to employees and the public.

**Multnomah County Ordains as Follows:**

**Section 1.** MCC 25.910 is added as follows:

**§ 25.910 HOTLINE ESTABLISHED.**

The waste, inefficiency, and abuse hotline (“hotline”) is established pursuant to ORS 297.760.

**Section 2.** MCC 25.920 is added as follows:

**§ 25.920 PURPOSE; METHOD OF MAKING REPORTS.**

The hotline’s purpose is to create a mechanism for employees and the public to report suspected waste, inefficiencies and abuse by the County and its officers, employees, and contractors. In addition to reports made to the hotline, reports may be made by any other method, including email.

**Section 3.** MCC 25.930 is added as follows:

**§ 25.930 OPERATION OF HOTLINE.**

(A) The hotline will be operated by the Auditor, with their consent. As part of operating the hotline, policies and procedures will be established.

(B) The hotline will be operated in accordance with guidelines set forth in ORS 297.760 and ORS 297.765.

**Section 4.** MCC 25.940 is added as follows:

**§ 25.940 REFERRAL TO CHAIR.**

Reports relating to labor and employment matters, including potential violations of County personnel rules, collective bargaining agreements, or employment laws will be referred to the Chair.

FIRST READING:

July 27, 2023

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION:

August 3, 2023



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

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*Katherine Thomas, Assistant County Attorney*

**SUBMITTED BY: Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair**