

Department of County Management

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

July 12, 2017

Auditor Steve March
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Ste 600
Portland, OR 97206

Dear Auditor March:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2017 biennial Financial Condition Report. Our ability to serve the residents of Multnomah County depends on our continued financial stability. This report provides a valuable status update on the county's financial health.

As you note, the county's current financial strength is the result of wise, and sometimes difficult, financial decision-making by the Board of County Commissioners. Thanks to prudent decisions over the years, we have the luxury of knowing we're well-poised to continue to serve our community. As the county's population continues to grow, and demand for our services increase, we must maintain our commitment to sound financial practices and management.

It's worth noting that the demographic section of the report demonstrates that over the past ten years, as we've added 100,000 county residents, the impact and recovery from the "Great Recession" were felt unevenly by our residents. While the overall percentage of those in poverty has declined, county residents of color continue to experience greater rates of poverty than white residents. We must continue to work to ensure that all county residents receive the health, safety, and human services they need in order to thrive.

The recent volatility in federal and state funding highlights the importance of the work we do together to safeguard the county's finances. Thank you and your team for thoroughly examining and chronicling the current state of the county's financial health. This financial discipline will continue to be critical as we help the county's leaders maintain our financial resiliency and serve our community with excellence and integrity.

Sincerely,



Marissa Madrigal
Chief Operating Officer