



To: County Commission Chair Harrington and Commissioners, Dani Ledezma
CC: Amanda Garcia-Snell, Tanya Ange, Melissa De Lyser, Wash Co CCI
Date: March 7, 2024
From: CCI Steering Committee, Bruce Bartlett – Chair, Wash Co CCI
Re: CCI Acknowledgment of CAO Response to CPO Leader FTE Value Letter

The Washington County Committee for Community Involvement (CCI) expresses its gratitude for the well-considered response to our letter estimating the value of the Community Participation Organization (CPO) leaders' time donated to the County (*FTE Value of CPO Leaders 2024-02-11*). Thank you for this exchange and please correct any misinterpretations we may have made to your response, otherwise no written reply is requested.

First, we would like to thank Samsam Abdi, Aika Fallstrom, Carol Renaud, and Amanda Garcia-Snell for their efforts in providing county staff support for the CPO program. (We are using the term "CPO program" to refer to both the CPO and CCI programs.) We also thank Melissa De Lyser for being an effective point of contact for land use issues.

Our Takeaways

The CPO program and its leaders are appreciated by the Board, staff, and many residents. The work done by CPO members dealing with large scale issues is seen as valuable.

The CPOs, the CCI, and the Wash Co Planning Commission together are key to meeting the County's Oregon Land Use Goal 1 requirements and no structural changes are anticipated to this arrangement. Nothing drastic is planned for CPO Program budget beyond the need county-wide to reduce budgets.

The CPO program helps the County advance its human-centered mission of service to the whole community. The CPO program is designed with no barrier to participation. It equitably allows all manner of diverse people to take individual initiative to be involved in activities affecting their communities through a CPO.

The individual CPO and CCI bylaws define how people will be elected to leadership roles, and crucially neither appointment nor employment by Washington County is required in order to become a community-elected CPO officer.

The CPO motto is truly "The world is run by those who show up."