

A DECLARATION OF SANCTUARY

The recent political climate has galvanized support of anti-immigrant, Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQ, anti-people of color, anti-women policies resulting in many individuals afraid for their safety and the loss of civil liberties.

These actions can result in proposals that are unlawful and unconstitutional, and will violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution, as well as other statutes (ie., ORS 181A.820) and international treaties.

We must act now and always to uphold our commitment to be a community free of prejudice, bigotry, and hate.

The Benton County Board of Commissioners declares Benton County a “Sanctuary County.”

Benton County will not participate in or facilitate any federal efforts to register individuals based on their religious affiliation or other status.

The Sheriff’s Office will respect the rights of and provide equal access to all individuals, regardless of religion, race, and ethnicity or immigration status.

The Board of Commissioners will inform cities and their elected officials in Benton County, Oregon State University and public school districts of this action.

The Board will also inform President Barack Obama, President-Elect Donald Trump, U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, U.S. Representatives Peter DeFazio and Kurt Schrader, Governor Kate Brown, Oregon Senators Sara Gelser and Brian Boquist, State Representatives Dan Rayfield and Andy Olson.

Signed this 20th day of December, 2016.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Annabelle Jaramillo, Chair

Anne Schuster, Commissioner

Jay Dixon, Commissioner