

# Montana State Legislature

**Exhibit Number:** 3

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# POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

Montana Auto Museum • Old Montana Prison • Frontier Montana Museum • Yesterday's Playthings • Powell County Museum

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 1.12.05

BILL NO. SB 73

12 January, 2005

Senate Committee on State Administration  
Montana Legislature  
Helena, Montana

Members of the Senate Committee on State Administration:

I am Dick Bauman and I have been the President of the Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation (PCM&AF) since 1986.

I am here in opposition to Senate Bill 73.

The Montana Law Enforcement Museum (MLEM) was formed as committee of the PCM&AF in 1984.

The MLEM Committee accepted artifacts, raised funds and received donations using the PCM&AF's non-profit corporate status during its formative years. The MLEM obtained its own non-profit status in September of 1988.

The PCM & AF has a large investment in the space occupied by the MLEM and Memorial. It has provided resources to include funding for on-site staffing, advertising and logistical support.

The PCM & AF has a legal and moral responsibility to the individuals and organizations which have loaned or donated artifacts and provided support to the MLEM and Memorial while it was a committee and located in the Old Montana Prison Museum.

The MLEM, Inc., through its present board, state that they refuse to provide even so much as an inventory of artifacts and items before proceeding with plans to relocate and remove the MLEM, its artifacts and its Memorial to an as yet undisclosed new location.

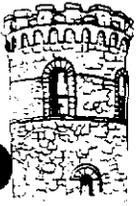
Until these issues are resolved, PCM & AF is opposed to amending Section 22-3-701, MCA.

I leave supporting documentation for your consideration.

Thank you,

*Dick Bauman*

Dick Bauman, President  
Board of Directors



# POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

Montana Auto Museum • Old Montana Prison • Frontier Montana Museum • Yesterday's Playthings • Powell County Museum

## POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION TIME LINE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT OF MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM

- JAN 04-2005 - PCM&AF Letter to MLEM - Inventory of Artifacts
- NOV 19 2004 - MLEM Letter to PCM&AF - Refusal to Provide inventory
- NOV 18 2004 - PCM&AF Letter to MLEM - Inventory required
- SEP 01 2004 - MLEM Letter to PCM&AF - Table discussions to improve
- MAY 12 2004 PCM&AF Letter to MELM - Suggested discussion items
- JAN 10 2004 MELM Letter to PCM&AF - Lease agreement check
- NOV 23 2001 PCM&AF Letter to MELM - Example of funding support
- JUN 13 1997 PCM&AF Letter to MELM - Example of funding support
- MAY 14 1996 PCM&AF Letter to MELM - Example of funding support
- APR 28 1992 Jim Blodgett Letter to PCM&AF 1975 ideas for MELM
- APR 25 1991 PCM&AF's History of MELM
- DEC 14 1989 Lease signed between PCM&AF and MELM
- MAY 09 1989 MELM committee Letter to PCM&AF
- SEP 22 1988 MELM is incorporated
- 1987 MELM plans and partial inventory
- APR 14 1987 MELM committee minutes
- MAR 25 1987 MELM committee minutes
- MAR 17 1987 MELM committee is established by PCM&AF
- 1986 MELM committee Coordinators Report and inventory
- NOV 1986 MELM committee Coordinators Report
- NOV 05 1986 PCM&AF Letter to Montana Arts Council -Matching funds
- JUN 03 1985 Montana Arts Council Grant -
- 1985 PCM&AF Proposed projects
- AUG 08 1984 MELM committee minutes
- 1952 to 1983 Chronology of Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation

9 Jan 2005 rdb



# POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

Montana Auto Museum • Old Montana Prison • Frontier Montana Museum • Yesterday's Playthings • Powell County Museum

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

The purpose of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation is to provide a tourism economy to the community through the preservation and adaptive re-use of the Old Montana Prison Complex. This effort encompasses operating the area inside the walls of the Old Prison as a Museum and additionally adding to the attraction base with a world class Auto Museum, a local Powell County Museum, a Doll and Toy Museum, a Western memorabilia Museum and a Saloon/Whiskey Bottle Museum. In addition we house the Montana Peace Officers Museum. The Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation endeavors to support the performing arts.

Our goal is to become a tourist "destination" with enough attendance to be self-supporting. In the process, we intend to preserve the history of Montana, Powell County and Deer Lodge.

Our biggest obstacle is stabilizing a badly deteriorated physical plant with fifteen historical structures on more than six square city blocks.



# POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

Montana Auto Museum • Old Montana Prison • Frontier Montana Museum • Yesterday's Playthings • Powell County Museum

January 4, 2005

Jerry L. McGee, Chairman  
Montana Law Enforcement Museum, Inc.  
221 Breckenridge  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Mr. McGee:

The relocation of the Montana Law Enforcement Museum (MLEM) & Peace Officer's Memorial Day Services were brought to the December 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting of the Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation (PCM&AF). I summarized your December 3<sup>rd</sup> letter for the Board.

The PCM&AF is not absolutely opposed to the relocation of artifacts to another location. The PCM&AF is concerned that any removals be documented. The PCM&AF clearly understands that, in its position as landlord, the responsibility and accountability for artifacts remains here. This is the place to which the artifacts were brought. This is the organization, in the years before the MLEM's incorporation, that began to receive the artifacts.

PCM&AF should not have to solicit donors in the release of these artifacts. That is the responsibility of the MLEM. Such records as MLEM has should provide avenue for the proper notification to the donors.

We take issue with the statement that the PCM&AF "has had 10 years to negotiate a new contract with the MLEM and provide better site conditions". That work is not unilaterally our responsibility. The PCM&AF board, over my signature, did direct a letter (*enclosed*) to MLEM this past Spring to open dialogue on the relationship between MLEM and PCM&AF. Among the items we wished to discuss were funding, hours of operation, and resources we might share in MLEM's continued operation. We didn't receive a response until late September, and that only advising that the MLEM board had tabled the discussion. The MLEM Coordinator would not speak to our Curator, and did not accept my direct invitation to visit following the May 15, 2004 Ceremony.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, the PCM&AF Board reaffirmed its intention to work with the MLEM to resolve issues at hand. The Board affirmed that the MLEM artifacts must be documented prior to removal.

The PCM&AF does not absolutely oppose the relocation of the Memorial Day Services to other locations. The PCM&AF Board is concerned that the coordination and notifications for the Service be handled in a more effective manner.

Sincerely,

  
Dick Bauman, President

cc: Terry Tyler, MLEM Coordinator  
Scott Howard  
John O'Donnell

# MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM, INC.

*"In Historic Old Montana State Prison"*

Deer Lodge, Montana

*Site of the State's Legislatively Recognized:*

## MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

*Founded: 1983*

19 November 2004

Dick Bauman, President  
PCM&AF  
Deer Lodge, MT

Mr. Bauman

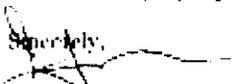
I recently received your e-mail in reference the acquisition of our artifacts on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Yes, we do intend to remove a large number of items with the intent of creating a 'traveling' display in Great Falls. This is per the wishes of the museum board of directors. Presently, Glen Stinar of the Great Falls Police Dept. represents his agency on this board. He will be on site Monday and possibly Tuesday overseeing the project. We hope that this move and display, which will be present during the upcoming winter months, will provide better marketing and advertising for the MLEM.

2 At this time, the museum is considering a move to the Great Falls area. However, this proposal is still being studied and the movement of artifacts is simply to create the above-described 'traveling' exhibit. It should also be noted that the MLEM will most likely not be open for the '05 season, whether it be in Deer Lodge, Great Falls or elsewhere. This is due to a variety of issues, including lack of operating monies due to unfulfilled financial obligations.

3 As for your concerns about the artifacts, they are being well cared for by us, the MLEM board of directors and stewards of the MLEM and it's displays. If there are items of concern that the PCM&AF loaned and/or received and in-turn loaned to the MLEM, please indicate such and these will be return post haste. However, we will not be providing a detailed inventory of our artifacts to the PCM&AF.

I hope that this answered some of your questions and concerns. As noted, we do intend to remove some MLEM property on Monday and Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sincerely,

  
Jerry L. McGee  
Chairman, MLEM

cc: Terry Tyler, MLEM Coordinator

Administrative Office:  
P.O. Box 2603, Great Falls, MT 59403-2603  
(406)452-0674 or MLEM (406)846-3777  
E-Mail: [mlem@montana.usa.com](mailto:mlem@montana.usa.com)

November 18, 2004

Jerry L. McGee, Chairman  
Montana Law Enforcement Museum, Inc.  
PO Box 2603  
Great Falls, Montana 59403-2603

Dear Mr. McGee:

The 2004 season attendant and several individuals were here Tuesday, November 16, to remove items from the Montana Law Enforcement Museum. It is our understanding that these folks are coming back "in force" to move more artifacts this coming Monday and Tuesday. We were told that the items are being taken to Great Falls.

In our position as a "landlord", we have the responsibility to protect all collections on the Old Prison Museum property, including MLEM's collection. We are concerned that we didn't receive prior notification to beginning the removal process. We will require your authorization, in writing, to verify that you are aware of the removal of these items, and that the process has the approval of your board.

We will also require inventory of the items removed for our mutual protections. These items have come from, and been donated by, various law enforcement agencies and individuals across the State. Some of these items were loaned or donated to the Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation. We will need to respond to questions and justify the future location of these items. This process is consistent with standard museum practice and policy as collections are removed, released or relocated.

We will not allow the removal to proceed without meeting these requirements.

We look forward to your prompt attention and response to our concerns and these requirements.

Sincerely,

Dick Bauman  
President, PCM & AF

cc: Mike McGrath, Montana Attorney General  
Scott Howard, Sheriff Powell County  
Terry Tyler, MLEM Coordinator

# MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM, INC.

*"In Historic Old Montana State Prison"*

Deer Lodge, Montana

*Site of the State's Legislatively Recognized:*

## MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

*Founded: 1983*

September 1, 2004

Dick Bauman, President  
Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation  
1106 Main Street  
Deer Lodge, Montana 59722

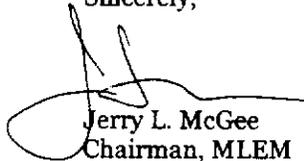
Dear Mr. Bauman

It's been a hectic summer for the Montana Law Enforcement Museum as well as our volunteers. I'm sure you've experienced the same. I hope that the PCM&AF had a very successful year and wish the best for the 2005 season.

The reason for this letter is to respond to that received by the MLEM via Dan Burns (dated May 12 2004). In this letter, you mention several topics for discussion as per the operation of our museum. It was the unanimous decision of the board of directors to take no action on your proposal and to table our discussion. It should be noted that we are to meet again this month and may opt to discuss this further. It should be noted that the MLEM enjoys our autonomy and we feel that the changes you suggest would be detrimental to our mission. It is our intentions to continue present operations, per past agreements, through the 2004 season.

I do wish the best for the PCM&AF and hope that we will continue to receive your support.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. McGee  
Chairman, MLEM

cc: Terry Tyler, MLEM Coordinator

Administrative Office:

P.O. Box 2603, Great Falls, MT 59403-2603

(406)452-0674 or MLEM...(406)846-3777

E-Mail: [mleom@montana.usa.com](mailto:mleom@montana.usa.com)



# POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

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May 12, 2004

Montana Law Enforcement Museum, Inc.  
c/o Dan Burns  
1625 Clark Drive  
Deer Lodge, Montana 59722

Gentlemen:

The Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation (PCM&AF) would like to sit down with members of the board of directors of the Montana Law Enforcement Museum, Inc. to discuss the future operation of the Montana Law Enforcement Museum (MLEM).

With the season coming upon us, there are a number of issues at hand concerning the operation of the MLEM. One issue we deal with on a regular basis concerns the MLEM operating hours, which are different from any of the other attractions in the Old Prison Museums complex. Our staff is regularly questioned about the hours of operation and sometimes assailed when the MLEM is not open at the same times as the rest of the attractions.

A second issue concerns the stipend that PCM&AF provides for the operation of the MLEM. That stipend is nearly equal to the cost of a full-time staff person for the MLEM. We are concerned about the issue of value relative to the cost we are incurring, as full-time staffing is not happening.

Finally, we have issues with the ongoing lack of communication between the MLEM administrator, PCM&AF and members of Montana law enforcement at large.

I would like to suggest, for the sake of discussion, the following possible outline of proposal:

- PCM&AF would take responsibility for the operation of the MLEM and the preservation and presentation of its contents. The ownership of all contents, archives and artifacts would remain the property of MLEM.
- PCM&AF would staff the facility during the main tourist season, being May 15 through Sept. 15, during regular hours of the rest of the museum complex. PCM&AF would be responsible for hiring and staffing the facility with employees, trained to the standards of the MLEM.
- Reports on the operation of the MLEM would be provided on a regular basis to the MLEM board. A non-voting representative of the PCM&AF would be assigned to attend meetings of the MLEM board of directors or as requested.

- The MLEM would provide one non-voting member to represent its interests at all PCM&AF board meetings or as requested.
- The MLEM organization will provide support and cooperation with MLEM fundraising and events such as Law Enforcement Memorial Day. PCM&AF will seek support, funding and provide assistance with MLEM fundraising efforts in conjunction with its own efforts.
- PCM&AF would coordinate and stage the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Day event, providing all necessary support, notification and information well in advance, to facilitate participation from all areas of the state and surrounding states. This would be accomplished with media from TV, radio, print and advanced notification through all publications provided by the PCM&AF.
- Arrangements for special visits during the off-season would be accommodated as possible with prior notice.
- Prior to any agreement to provide these operational functions, a complete inventory and audit of all aspects of the operation and artifacts within the MLEM would be completed by MLEM staff with PCM&AF oversight.

It seems that we have much common ground in our appreciation for the collection, preservation and presentation of the history and artifacts of Montana Law Enforcement. Please contact me if you find merit in these preliminary suggestions. I look forward to visiting with you and members of your board of directors as possible.

Sincerely yours,



Dick Bauman, President  
Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation