



AURORA
PUBLIC
DEFENDER

Justice Fairness &
Compassion For All

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING

July 22, 2022 12:15 P.M.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S IN OFFICE AND VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:21 p.m.
2. Present were Commissioners Tom Tobiassen, Frances Smylie-Brown, Johanna Cartledge, Colette Tvedt, Tom Ashburn and David Kaplan, along with Chief Public Defender Doug Wilson. A quorum was declared to conduct Commission business.

Absent: Sara Hildebrand

3. Guests: Elizabeth Cadiz, Tasha Steward, Dustin Klein, Christopher Ide, Jordan Culver, Richard Barahona, Stephen Pepper, and Greg Pastrich.
4. Minutes: Motion to Approve- Commissioner Kaplan, 2nd by Commissioner Ashburn. All in favor. Motion passes.
5. Introductions
6. Report from the Chief Public Defender:

Passing of Ordinances

Motor Vehicle Theft and Failure to Appear ordinances have passed, pending publishing then approving. Our case load will most likely increase with all the possible FTA charges based on the way the ordinance is written.

Commissioner Kaplan asks if the mandatory sentence excludes work release. Chief Wilson states that it does not specifically mentions that. It states that it could not be suspended.

Workload

2 FTE's were requested, funds for MH professional position and competency evaluations. While these requests were being processed, the State FINES committee agreed to provide us with funds to pay for the MH position and competency evaluations. This significantly reduced the amount of funds we were requesting from the City. With weekend court starting in January, we will be needing an FTE and now with the MVT ordinance getting approved, we will need the 2 FTE's.

It may be of benefit to have a few commissioners join Chief Wilson and sit and meet with City Manager Twombly. Commissioner Tobiassen will meet with City Manager Twombly and then if needed, a second meeting will be requested.

Commissioner Tvedt asked about caseload, specifically on Domestic Violence and if more attorney time is needed to handle the cases. Chief Wilson explains the numbers are higher than the Colorado Project workload analysis, but it will be something that we will keep looking at.

Compensation

The annual wage salary which was to be completed by June has not been completed but they are now doing a 5% increase in October instead of waiting till January. Employees will receive the bump if they received a passing evaluation. City employees will also receive a few inflation bonuses per paycheck to help with rising costs between now and end of September.

High performance bonuses will also be given to some employees. The commission will probably need to be a part of this process.

Case Statistics

818 in 6 months for Jury Trial. 86 were dismissed at status which is the Wednesday before jury day settings. On the day of jury, 402 were set and 221 were dismissed day of. Out of 19 jury trials held with 48 charges, 28 not guilty, 4 dismissed by court, and 4 dismissed by City. 12 charge convictions out of 818 cases set.

Public Defender Commission Renewals

We have 3 positions up for reappointment in October. We should start working on the process through boards and commissions web page. 2 out of 3 have agreed to renew and 1 pending a decision.

7. From the Commission:

Nothing from the commission

Next meeting will be held on August 26, 2022 at 12:15 p.m. in the Public Defender's Virtual Conference room.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m. and went into Executive Session.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Date _____