



AURORA
PUBLIC
DEFENDER

Justice Fairness &
Compassion For All

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING

January 27, 2023, 12:15 P.M.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S IN OFFICE AND VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:18 p.m.
2. Present were Commissioners Tom Tobiassen, Frances Smylie-Brown, Sara Hildebrand, Tom Ashburn, and David Kaplan along with Chief Public Defender Doug Wilson. A quorum was declared to conduct Commission business.

Absent: None

3. Guests: Reyna Lopez, Elizabeth Cadiz, Tasha Steward, Anne Moorhead, Dustin Klein.
4. Introductions-None
5. Minutes: No Minutes from December 2022
6. Report from the Chief Public Defender:

Retirement

After 33 years of Public Defender work, it is time to retire (again). July 31st, 2023 will be the last day at the office. Commission Chair Tobiassen, Commissioner Ashburn, and Chief Public Defender Wilson have discussed getting a search committee together to get started on the hiring process. Committee members (if approved) include Mark Stephens, Ed Monahan, and Alice Norman.

Commission Openings

Attorney McDermott has submitted his application for the attorney position opening. The next step is to have the commission set up a meeting and make a decision. We are still working on the citizen position.

Weekend Court

Attorney Anne Moorhead has come out of retirement to assist with weekend court. Since the start of the new process, issues have come up each weekend and meetings are held weekly to find solutions. Aurora Mental Health staff is coming in on Sundays to help, and video advisements for Arapahoe county will start this coming week.

Staffing

We have an attorney coming on board to fill the contract attorney position. Her first day will be February 13th. That will alleviate attny Moorhead's schedule and help reduce case load per attorney.

Reply to Grievance

A response to the grievance filed was received in January 2023. The issue and reason for the grievance affected 232 cases. We have until February 13th to file a reply to the response.

Positions- Budget

Once again thank you commission for the work done getting us equal pay. With that comes additional position classification. PD 1, 2, 3, 4. We have had a wage salary survey done and it has been decided that an increase will be instituted. The starting salary will be around \$87,000. HR is also working on compa-ratio adjustments for those that qualify based on the number of years in the position. This process should be done by the March 3rd paycheck.

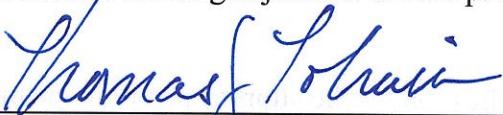
Pay for performance evaluations will be instituted this year for career service. This will determine increases instead of 3% increases across the board. It is expected to start in the fall.

7. From the Commission:

Commissioner Kaplan asked what the budget for hiring of Chief Public Defender is anticipated at. Chief Wilson does not have a budget estimate at this time. He is not aware of what the previous costs were nor who or how it was handled. Chair Tobiassen did mention that it previously came out of our dept budget. Chair Tobiassen will work with HR be given a number soon.

Next meeting will be held on February 24, 2023, at 12:15 p.m. in the Public Defender's Virtual Conference room.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.



COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Date 11/3/2023