



AURORA  
PUBLIC  
DEFENDER

Justice Fairness &  
Compassion For All

## PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING

February 24, 2023, 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 Chair Tom Tobiassen, David Kaplan, Frances Smylie-Brown, Sara Hildebrand, and Tom Ashburn, along with Chief Public Defender Wilson. A quorum was declared to conduct Commission business.

Absent: None

3. Guests: E Cadiz, T Steward, C Ide, J Culver, and G Pastrich, E Davies, A Moorehead, and A DUBY.
4. Introductions- Marla Garrett, Beau Laracuenta- new admin
5. Minutes: No Minutes to approve
6. Report from the Chief Public Defender:

#### Office Staff

The newest addition is Attorney Marla Garrett. She worked for the State Public Defender and then a magistrate in Denver District Court. New hire to start soon is Paralegal Ailyn Quinonez.

#### Commissioner Opening

Attorney Sean McDermott has been interviewed for the opening. A letter of recommendation has been sent to the City Clerk. Hopefully he will be appointed soon and be here at the next meeting.

#### Workload Study

City Manager Twombly has resigned from the city. We have no word on when the cost analysis will be done. During the Public Safety Courts and Civil Service meeting, court administrator C Adkinson introduced a proposal for a workload study from National Center for State Courts that included our department without discussing it with our Commission or department. The proposal is for \$210,000 for Court Administration, Judicial, and City Attorney. An additional \$35,358. if the Public Defender office would be included. The original request from City Council to have a workload study conducted did not include the Public Defender's since one had already been conducted. No vote was held at the Public Safety Meeting, but C Adkinson advised our department that she had been instructed to move it on to Special Study Session despite the lack of voting on it.

New Chief Public Defender

The search committee's proposal to hire is final and moving forward. Budget advised us that we will have to pay for it out of our budget. Once we are assigned an HR recruiter, we will provide them with the search committee information.

7. From the Commission:

Commissioner Smylie-Brown makes a motion to put forth the proposal to create the search committee. Commissioner Ashburn seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

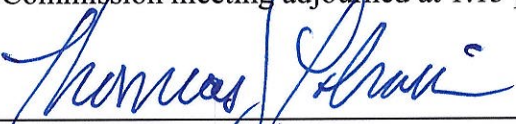
8. New Business

Our office has been testing a new program called Reduct. It is used to transcribe body worn camera videos for court proceedings. The State Public Defender and Denver use this program as well. It is around \$24,000.

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

Commissioner Ashburn makes a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smylie-Brown seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

  
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COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Date 11/3/2023