



AURORA
PUBLIC
DEFENDER
Justice Fairness &
Compassion For All

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING

March 24, 2023, 12:15 P.M.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S IN OFFICE AND VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:22 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: Sean McDermott, Reyna Lopez, Elizabeth Cadiz, Tasha Steward, Christopher Ide, Dustin Klein.
4. Introductions-None
5. Minutes: Motion to approve February 2023 minutes raised by T Ashburn, seconded by F Smylie-Brown. All approved minutes. Motion passed.
6. Report from the Chief Public Defender:

Commission Openings

Attorney McDermott's application is on the agenda for Monday Night's council meeting.

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

The office still has one open attorney position. With the help of HR recruiter Ms. Mackenzie, we extended offers to two applicants and both times we were turned down. We had Attny Steward and recruiter Mackenzie attend a job fair at DU so we are hoping to get the word out. The addition of Attorney M Garrete has helped tremendously with relieving some of the caseloads.

Spring Supplemental

We are up in front of management and finance on Tuesday for our spring supplemental. We are not asking for any funds at this time. We are bringing money in from the Fines Committee in the amount of \$350,000 to continue to fund Aurora Sustained through the rest of the year. The process still needs to go through the supplemental process in order for it to be adopted into the budget.

Workload Study

The Public Defender's Office has recently done a workload study. We submitted our numbers and made a request. That was rejected. Funds were set aside in a non-departmental fund. As a result, we had to contract for weekend court at a higher cost to the city. Without any discussion, the court administrator reached out to the National Center for State Courts and we're now in another workload study. This is going to cost a quarter of a million dollars to include us in another workload study.

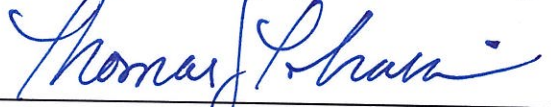
Search Committee

The search process for the new Chief Public Defender has begun. The contract has been signed by the committee and needs to be signed by our department.

7. From the Commission:

Next meeting/interviews will be held on May 26, 2023, at 12:15 p.m. in the Public Defender's Virtual Conference room.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.



COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Date 11/3/2023