



AURORA  
PUBLIC  
DEFENDER

Justice Fairness &  
Compassion For All

## PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING

August 25, 2023, 12:15 P.M.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S IN OFFICE AND VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ROOM

### MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:26 p.m.
2. Present were Commissioners, Frances Smylie-Brown, Sara Hildebrand, and Tom Ashburn, along with Chief Public Defender Elizabeth Cadiz. A quorum was declared to conduct Commission business.  
  
Absent: Tom Tobiassen, David Kaplan, Sean McDermott.
3. Guests: T Steward, C Ide, J Culver, G Desmarais, S Pepper, R Barahona, M Garrett, and G Pastrich.
4. Introductions-None
5. Minutes: No Minutes to approve
6. Report from the Chief Public Defender:

#### Office Security/Confidentiality

At present, Court Admin maintains that the camera is necessary because there are cameras in every other public space; the sole custodian is Court IT, reasonable proposed alternatives were not acceptable. The camera is visual only and does not capture audio. The agreement to move the secured badge door to the external entry door near the stairwell will not work because of the access that would be required for all the people who have access to the HVAC closet room. EDC will send Frances the language drafted for our policy and that received by Candace. S Hildenbrand pointed out that this was a confidentiality issue not just as to the audio being captured but also as to our client's ID. Frances brought up an instance where federal court had litigated issue and it was not decided in our favor. EDC will have further discussions with Vince (Facilities) and with Collette at Denver regarding their safety and security; also, will share materials with Frances.

#### Discovery Update

"Electronic discovery" is up and running but there are a lot of issues and will likely result in further litigation since the City's process is very complicated and time consuming. EDC used, as examples, repetitive emails and expiration dates.

OADC

Meeting held with Judge Day, CA Angela Garcia (counsel from the Civil side), Jackie Ehman (Budget Analyst), Doug Wilson, and from OADC: Julio Jourdane, Darren Cantor, and others. We discussed the prior invoices and that OADC had been incorrectly reflecting payments for reimbursement. The meeting this morning was productive, they finally apologized and are hoping for some resolution sooner rather than later.

Budget

Budget Study Session slides will be presented at the September 19th Study Session. We need a Commission Member there in support. Tom Ashburn suggested that the Commission adopt or support our department budget as a whole. EDC will send out the slides, details regarding dates, and the narrative that was just completed (initial draft) to keep commission in the loop.

New Chief Deputy

Jordan Culver is the new Chief Deputy (replacing Elizabeth Cadiz); had three internal candidates and conducted interviews on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Office Staffing

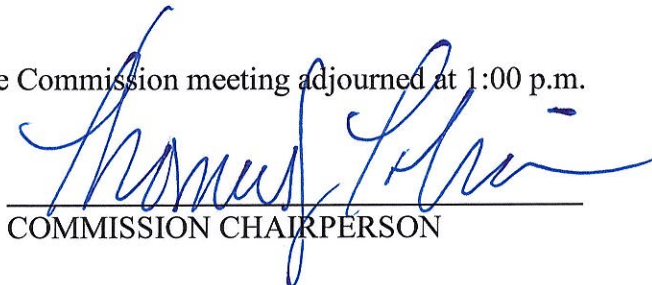
Filling the Chief Deputy position results in an opening for Deputy Public Defender, we also have a position for a part-time VHBE paralegal to conduct pd apps. We will begin the process to fill both positions.

7. From the Commission:

Nothing at this time

Next meeting will be held on September 22, 2023, at 12:15 p.m. in the Public Defender's Virtual Conference room.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

  
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COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Date 11/3/2023