

**RESOLUTION NO. 38-08-18**  
**IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED PUBLIC DEFENDER ACCESS AND PAY**

WHEREAS, criminal cases continue to rise due to a variety of factors including increased drug crimes; and

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin provide that persons accused have the right to counsel; and

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, the Office of the Public Defender provides counsel to those persons meeting income eligibility guidelines for services; and

WHEREAS, judges are being forced to appoint counsel at county expense for persons for whom the public defender cannot find representation due to a lack of available counsel as a result of the low compensation rate; and

WHEREAS, this results in costs to counties to appoint counsel, increased costs to jail persons held pre-trial pending appointment of counsel, inefficiency for courts and law enforcement and a delay in obtaining justice for victims; and

WHEREAS, the rate of compensation for private bar attorneys has not been increased since 1995 and currently is the lowest hourly rate in the nation; and

WHEREAS, this has created a burden on the courts and Wisconsin counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Waushara County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Office of the Public Defender to ensure that the criminal justice system operates effectively and efficiently; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin increase the rate of reimbursement for assigned counsel attorneys to a market rate that will ensure the prompt appointment of counsel and that cases are handled in a timely and efficient manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Waushara County Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Waushara County's State Legislators, Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, and each Wisconsin County.

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to Waushara County.

**Resolution No. 38-08-18**

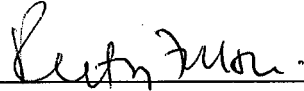
**Resolution No. 38-08-18**

Ayes \_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_ ~~X~~ Voice Vote

Approved and adopted this 21st day of August, 2018.

Denied this 21st day of August, 2018.

Approved as to Form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

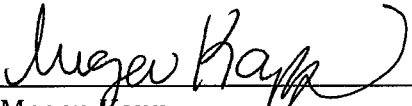
Ruth Zouski  
Corporation Counsel

Submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

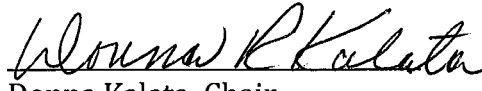
Donna Kalata, Chair  
Executive Committee

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Megan Kapp  
Waushara County Clerk

Signed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Donna Kalata, Chair  
Waushara County Board of Supervisors