

County Clerk

Jaclyn Sadler

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CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Est. 1848



WISCONSIN

Certificate of Adoption

State of Wisconsin)

) ss.

Office of County Clerk

County of Chippewa)

I, Jaclyn J. Sadler, the County Clerk of Chippewa County, Wisconsin, do certify that the attached Resolution was adopted by the Chippewa County Board on October 9, 2018.

Jaclyn J. Sadler
County Clerk



Resolution No. 61 - 18

RESOLUTION TO URGE THE STATE TO INCREASE FUNDING AND COMPENSATION FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER APPOINTMENTS

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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 of a crime 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, counsel appointed to represent these indigent defendants are often private bar attorneys that have agreed to take Public Defender appointments; and

WHEREAS, almost 40% of State Public Defender cases are appointed to private bar attorneys; and

WHEREAS, the rate of compensation for private bar attorneys is \$40 per hour for court time and \$25 per hour for travel time; and

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

WHEREAS, judges are increasingly 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 before trial pending appointment of counsel, and a delay in obtaining justice for victims; and

WHEREAS, this shortage of attorneys willing to accept Public Defender appointments at the current rate of compensation has created a burden on the courts and Wisconsin counties;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa 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 Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby

61 support increasing the rate of reimbursement for private bar attorneys appointed by the
62 Public Defender’s Office to a market rate that will ensure the prompt appointment of counsel
63 and will ensure that cases are handled in a timely and efficient manner; and
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65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Chippewa County Clerk is directed to forward a copy
66 of this resolution to the Office of Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Counties Association,
67 and the state legislators that represent the citizens of Chippewa County.
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69 Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.
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71 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

72 There is no fiscal impact to Chippewa County by passage of this resolution.
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75 History:

76 09/18/18 Executive Committee FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD
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Approved as to Form:

James B. Sherman
James B. Sherman, Corporation Counsel

9/11/2018

Melissa J. Roach
Melissa J. Roach, Finance Director

9/11/2018

Randy B. Scholz
Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

9/11/2018

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1st Reading 10/9/18 2nd Reading N/A
Board Action - Vote Required 5/11
For 14 Absent 1
Against 0 Abstain 0
Clerk Signature: Jaclyn Stadler