

**Resolution 22.14**  
**Authorize 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 before trial pending appointment of counsel 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 Price 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.

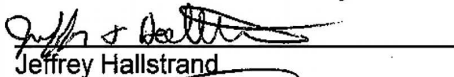
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby support increasing the rate of reimbursement for assigned counsel attorneys to a market rate that will ensure the prompt appointment of counsel and will ensure that cases are handled in a timely and efficient manner.

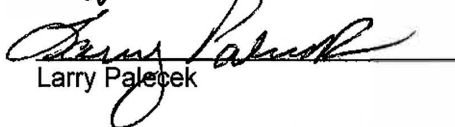
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby direct the Price County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Office of Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all state senators and assembly members representing Price County constituents.

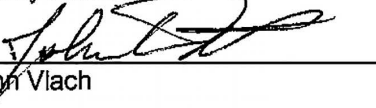
Submitted by the Law Enforcement Committee

  
James Hintz, Chair


  
Marguerite Sue Bocock

  
Jeffrey Hallstrand

  
Larry Palecek

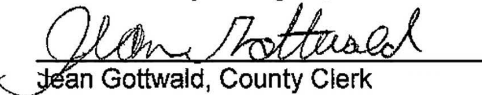
  
John Vlach

Reviewed by County Administrator:

  
Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2018.

  
Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair

  
Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For 13 Against 0