



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 10, 2020

DATE: Thursday, November 05, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Eric Brown, County Manager
328-2060, EPriceBrown@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to appoint Justin Roper to the unclassified management position of Chief Alternative Sentencing Officer of the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) per Washoe County Code 11.030 with an annual starting salary of \$98,800.00 effective November 10, 2020. (All Commission Districts).

SUMMARY

Justin Roper has been Acting Chief of the Department of Alternative Sentencing since August 7, 2020 when he was appointed into the position as a result of the retirement of former Chief, Joseph Ingraham. After a competitive recruitment and selection process, Mr. Roper was chosen as the preferred and most qualified candidate for the position.

Per Washoe County Code 11.030 the Chief of DAS must be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to the County Manager's recommendation. This agenda item seeks the Board's approval of the appointment of Justin Roper as Chief of the Department of Alternative Sentencing with an annual starting salary of \$98,800.00 effective November 10, 2020.

Strategic Objective(s) supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities; Regional Leadership Through Engaged Employees

PREVIOUS ACTION

On July 21, 2020, Sergeant Justin Roper was appointed as acting Chief, Department of Alternative Sentencing, effective from August 7, 2020 and until a permanent candidate was selected from the recruitment process.

On December 7, 2005 the Board appointed Joseph Ingraham as the Chief of the Alternative Sentencing Department with an effective start date concurrent with the effective date of the ordinance establishing the department pursuant to NRS 211A. The ordinance establishing the department was also approved in December 2005.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

Sergeant Justin Roper joined the Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing on September 24, 2018 after serving 17 years at the City of Reno Municipal Court. Sergeant Roper began as a Marshal, Sergeant, Commander and was Chief his last 10 years. Sergeant Roper has been responsible for overseeing various high-level functions for the Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing including the Sober 24 program, lab management, field operations and budget preparation.

The mission of the Department of Alternative Sentencing is to increase safety in the community by reducing recidivism among criminal offenders through a rehabilitative environment that includes accountability for offenses, opportunities for gaining and applying life skills, and sanctions for regressive behaviors.

Established in December 2005, the Department of Alternative Sentencing, under the authority of NRS 211A, is responsible for the monitoring of all pre-trial and misdemeanor adjudicated cases directed to us by any court within Washoe County. Case responsibilities may include but are not limited to in-person reporting, counseling monitoring or referral, provisions for job training, drug and alcohol testing and random in-home visits any time without a warrant. Cases are monitored for the duration of the suspended sentence which could be up to three years or until such time the probationer is released or revoked by the court of jurisdiction.

The Department of Alternative Sentencing is also the County's designated agency to provide all drug testing services as outlined in 2019 Legislative Bills AB236 and SB316. Each bill has language that requires the utilization of drug and alcohol testing that shall be completed. The Department has embraced its role as the Regional Drug Testing Facility by providing best practice drug testing services to 31 local and regional agencies.

Services provided by the department include:

- Public Safety
- Alternative to jail
- Direct cost savings to taxpayers
- Intense supervision to ensure compliance with court orders
- Intensive drug and alcohol testing
- Access to Social Services, housing and rehabilitation programs

The Chief of the Department of Alternative Sentencing directly oversees all functions including oversight of 4 Officers, 2 sergeants, 7 support staff and 34 intermittent staff for the Sober 24/lab functions with a total budget of \$2,661,326 in Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Chief Ingraham was hired in December 2005 under the qualifications of Washoe County Code 11.030 and NRS 211A.100 whereby the chief:

1. *Must be appointed by the action of a majority of the board pursuant to the county manager's recommendation.*

2. *Must have at least five years of experience, with an increasing level of responsibility, in the field of law enforcement, corrections or supervision of persons on probation or parole.*
3. *Must possess a category II certificate from the peace officers' standards and training commission (POST).*
4. *Is in the unclassified service of Washoe County.*

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding of this position is available in the Department of Alternative Sentencing FY 2020/2021 adopted budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners appoint Acting Chief, Justin Roper to the unclassified management position of Chief Alternative Sentencing Officer of the Department of Alternative Sentencing per Washoe County Code 11.030 and approve an annual starting salary of \$98,800.00, effective November 10, 2020.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the appointment of Acting Chief Justin Roper to the unclassified management position of Chief Alternative Sentencing Officer of the Department of Alternative Sentencing per Washoe County Code 11.030 and approve an annual starting salary of \$98,800.00 effective November 10, 2020."