



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 13, 2018

DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2018

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Marc Picker, Alternate Public Defender
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John Arrascada, Public Defender
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the creation of one (1) new full-time Deputy Public Defender III position, under-fill pay grade A OO (Alternate Public Defender) beginning November 19, 2018, and one (1) new full-time Deputy Public Defender III position, under-fill pay grade A OO (Public Defender) beginning February 1, 2019; each with an annual range of \$68,827.20 to \$92,435.20. [Net fiscal impact is estimated at \$199,510] (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

On June 26, 2018 the Board of County Commissioners approved a 6-month renewal of the agreement of the County's Appointed Counsel Administrator Services with the intent to add staff support for the both the Public Defender and Alternate Public Defenders' offices. The intent was to add one (1) deputy to each office to handle family cases and reduce overflow cases beginning in February, 2018. Important to note is that these positions will be under-filled at the Deputy Public Defender I level to allow flexibility in the offices.

This is the request for those positions with the Alternate Public Defender deputy filling the position ahead of schedule to help alleviate anticipated internal staff shortages in that office.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Valued, engaged employee workforce, Regional and Community Leadership.

BACKGROUND

Staff worked with the budget office to develop a plan to reformat the current conflict counsel process while also adding much-needed staff to the Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender offices. Both the Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender requested adding one (1) deputy attorney position to handle family cases in each office therefore reducing overflow to conflict counsel; the timing aligns with the retirement of the existing Appointed Counsel Administrator and the intent was to add internal staff in February, 2019. The Alternate Public

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Defender requests filling the deputy ahead of schedule to help alleviate a temporary internal staff shortage.

Staff is requesting to add one (1) new full-time Deputy Public Defender I position, under-fill pay grade A OO (Alternate Public Defender) beginning November 19, 2018, and one (1) new full-time Deputy Public Defender I position, under-fill pay grade A OO (Public Defender) beginning February 1, 2019; each with an annual range of \$68,827.20 to \$92,435.20. These positions will be under-filled at the Deputy Public Defender I level to allow flexibility in the offices.

The positions will carry caseloads of approximately 100 clients, with additional representation at initial probable cause hearings and Family Treatment Court. This representation will provide superior representation for clients currently referred out to private conflict counsel as well as budget savings. The Alternate Public Defender position will be cross-trained to provide coverage for juvenile, criminal and specialty court cases as needed.

This board action supports both the Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender's office and their ability to allocate resources to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and quality public defense.

FISCAL IMPACT

Based on reallocation of the FY19 adopted budget, there is sufficient budget authority in the respective Alternate Public Defender and Public Defender budgets to cover the salaries and benefits for the additional positions. These positions will be under-filled at the Deputy Public Defender I level to allow flexibility in the offices.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve one (1) new full-time Deputy Public Defender III position, under-fill pay grade A OO (Alternate Public Defender) beginning November 19, 2018, and one (1) new full-time Deputy Public Defender III position, under-fill pay grade A OO (Public Defender) beginning February 1, 2019; each with an annual range of \$68,827.20 to \$92,435.20.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be, *"Move to approve one (1) new full-time Deputy Public Defender III position, under-fill pay grade A OO (Alternate Public Defender) beginning November 19, 2018, and one (1) new full-time Deputy Public Defender III position, under-fill pay grade A OO (Public Defender) beginning February 1, 2019; each with an annual range of \$68,827.20 to \$92,435.20."*