



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** *February 26, 2019*

**DATE:** Friday, February 22, 2019

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Jackie Bryant, Court Administrator, Second Judicial District Court  
328-3119, [Jackie.bryant@washoecourts.us](mailto:Jackie.bryant@washoecourts.us)

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve the creation of one (1) new full-time Pretrial Services Officer II position, pay grade K443, and abolish two (2) part-time Court Master positions, PC #70004100 and #70004101, effective upon approval, and direct Human Resources to make the adjustments. District Court (All Commission Districts).

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### **SUMMARY**

The Second Judicial District Court (Court) has identified the need for additional Pretrial Services staff in order to effectively manage the workload. The Court, along with County management, have identified two vacant part-time Master positions that would better benefit the needs of the Court if reclassified into one full-time Pre-Trial Services Officer II position.

**Washoe County Strategic Objectives supported by this item:** Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities and Valued, Engaged Employee Workforce.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

*No previous action*

### **BACKGROUND**

The need for additional Pretrial Services Officers was initially highlighted in the Court's fiscal Year 2017 Above-Base Request Letter submitted on February 22, 2016. Subsequently, in its Fiscal Year 2018 Above-Base Request letter, dated February 10, 2017, the Court requested five new Pretrial Services Officers. The Court received two of the five requested Pretrial Services Officer positions beginning in July 2017. The Court requested three additional Pretrial Services Officer positions in the Fiscal Year 2019 Above-Base Request Letter. The Court did not receive the three requested positions, but was offered a suggestion by the Office of the County Manager to trade two vacant part-time Court Master positions for one full-time Pretrial Services Officer II.

The Court's Pretrial Services Department interviews every arrestee booked into the Washoe County Jail who is facing new charges and supervises pretrial defendants for all courts in Washoe County, with the exception of Reno Municipal Court. This County-wide service provides vital protections to our community and is a significant part of the

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

overall criminal justice system in Washoe County. At the Washoe County Jail, the Pretrial Services Department assesses defendants for risk of failure to appear in court and for re-arrest. This recommendation is provided to all limited jurisdiction judges who set bail in a fair and legal manner. Additionally, the Pretrial Services Department supervises arrestees with the least restricted conditions who are not kept in jail. Both activities require diligence and leave no room for error. The safety of our community hinges on the expertise and attention to detail that must be provided by our Pretrial Services staff. Failure to perform these required tasks in a legal and accurate manner could result in danger to our community and liability to the County.

In 2018, the Pretrial Services Department released 5240 people from the jail on their own recognizance. This occurred without judicial review. According to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, each day, an arrestee in jail costs Washoe County taxpayers approximately \$119 per day. Pretrial Services saved Washoe County taxpayers \$623,560 per day for each day the arrestee was released instead of being in jail awaiting a judicial determination on whether the individual should be released on bail. Furthermore, the Pretrial Supervision team of 8 people is currently supervising, on average, 1300 pretrial defendants per month. This is approximately the maximum number of jail beds. If these people were not supervised out of custody, ensuring public safety, the cost to house these people in jail would cost Washoe County taxpayers \$154,700 per day.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Based on abolishment of the two part-time court master positions, there is sufficient budget authority in the District Court's FY19 adopted budget to cover the salaries and benefits of the new position.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation to approve the creation of one (1) new full-time Pretrial Services Officer II position, pay grade K443, and abolish two (2) part-time Court Master positions, PC #70004100 and #70004101, effective upon approval, and direct Human Resources to make the adjustments.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with this recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to approve the creation of one (1) new full-time Pretrial Services Officer II position, pay grade K443, and abolish two (2) part-time Court Master positions, PC #70004100 and #70004101, effective upon approval, and direct Human Resources to make the adjustments.