



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Superior Court
Department No.: 025
For Agenda Of: June 22, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Darrel E. Parker 614-6594
Director(s)
Contact Info: Patrick Ballard 882-4682, Rachel Lipman 8568-2246, Reese Ellestad 568-3403
SUBJECT: Contract for Provision of Conflict Defense Services

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 7 to the Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents with Justice Defenders, a Professional Corporation, dba North County Defense Team and lead attorney Michael J. Scott, and the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, for the provision of conflict defense (alternate Public Defender) services in the North County Superior Courts for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Summary Text:

The provision of defense counsel for indigent defendants is required under the U.S. Constitution, decisional law, and Penal Code section 987. Further, Penal Code section 987.2(b) provides that such services may be provided by a contract with one or more responsible attorneys.

Background:

The current contract for the provision of conflict defense services in the North County courts expires June 30, 2021. Upon mutual agreement of the parties and fair and reasonable consideration, an extension to the agreement is requested in order to continue to provide these legally mandated services.

Under the contract system, a consortium of attorneys handle various defense cases in which the Public Defender cannot legally represent the defendant because of a conflict of interest. (These cases are actual legal conflicts and are distinguished from cases in which the Public Defender has declined representation for budgetary reasons). This primarily occurs in multiple defendant cases in which the Public Defender may legally only represent one defendant. The contractor is required to represent up to five (5) co-

defendants in a given conflict case. Secondary conflicts are avoided because the various attorneys in the consortium are in separate law firms and economies of scale are achieved.

The contract method of providing conflict defense services has resulted in tremendous cost savings since its inception in Santa Barbara County compared to the former method of compensating counsel on an hourly basis for each case handled. The court and county have established contracts, which essentially require the provision of such services on a “flat fee for all cases” basis.

The Superior Court has been satisfied with the quality of service provided by North County Defense Team; and wishes to extend the agreement through June 30, 2022. In Amendment No. 7, the contractor is substituted to be Justice Defenders, a Professional Corporation, dba North County Defense Team and lead attorney Michael J. Scott.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

For fiscal year 2021-2022, the cost for the provision of such services under the Agreement shall be \$87,637.35 monthly plus the June CPI adjustment not to exceed 2%.

There are no facilities impacts.

Budgeted: This contract has been budgeted for this fiscal year.

Key Contract Risks:

The risk factors in this contract are relatively low. There is a risk of increased costs when there are more than five (5) defendants in a case and additional attorneys are required at an hourly rate, beyond the scope of this contract. An additional financial risk occurs when extreme circumstances arise with justifiable extraordinary expenses due to prolonged capital felony cases, change of venue, mass arrests, multiple defendant cases, and changes in the law, consequential to the North County Defense Team incurring expenses in excess of \$10,000 for experts and investigative fees.

Special Instructions:

Please provide a fully executed original to: Patrick Ballard, Superior Court Chief Financial Officer.
Please provide copies of the minute order to: Patrick Ballard, Superior Court Chief Financial Officer and to Rachel Lipman and Reese Ellestad, County Administrative Analysts, upon adoption.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Amendment No. 7 to the Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents
- Attachment B: Board Contract Summary
- Attachment C: Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents
- Attachment D: Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents
- Attachment E: Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents
- Attachment F: Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents
- Attachment G: Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents
- Attachment H: Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents
- Attachment I: The Agreement for Services for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents

Authored by:

Darrel E. Parker, Superior Court Executive Officer

cc:

Rachel Lipman, County Executive Office
Reese Ellestad, County Executive Office