



## Memorandum

**To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners**

**From: Karen Groenhout, Livingston County Public Defender**

**Date: June 7, 2023**

**Re: Resolution Authorizing the Addition of a Public Defender I, Public Defender II, Public Defender II, Public Defender III and an Administrative Specialist Position to the Livingston County Public Defender's Office. – Public Defender**

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The Livingston County Public Defender's Office is requesting approval to hire an additional five full time positions for the Public Defender's Office; Pubic Defender I, Public Defender II, Public Defender II, Public Defender III, and an Administrative Specialist.

As you are aware, the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) provides every county in the State of Michigan with mandates that address the execution of indigent defense services. These mandates are known as the "MIDC Standards". Since the FY23 grant request, the MIDC implemented Standard 8: Attorney Compensation (Economic Disincentives or Incentives). Standard 8 contains several new requirements regarding an attorney's time, fees, and the granting of resources. The requested positions are directly related to compliance with Standard 8. On March 27, 2023, the Livingston County Board of Commissioners unanimously supported the submission of a grant request that included money to fully fund the additional four attorney positions, a paralegal position (which is not included in this resolution as it must first be presented to the Personnel Committee) and one administrative specialist. The hiring of each position is contingent upon the MIDC grant contributing 100% of the cost.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. I will be on vacation the week of June 12 through June 16, 2023. If you are unable to reach me personally, please feel free to contact Chief Assistant Public Defender, Laura Mitchell, at 517-540-8935.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Karen E. Groenhout, Esq.  
Livingston County Chief Public Defender  
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