



LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN
LIVINGSTON COUNTY COURTS

204 S. Highlander Way, Howell, MI 48843
Phone 517.540.7570 Fax 517.548.9445

MEMORANDUM

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
From: Matthew J. McGivney, Chief Judge, 44th Circuit Court and 53rd District Court
Miriam A. Cavanaugh, Chief Judge of Probate Court
Date: May 4, 2026
Re: Resolution Authorizing the Addition of 1.0 FTE Court Security Officer Position

As Chief Judges of the Livingston County Courts, the protection of the public and court employees is an ongoing and primary concern. The Board of Commissioners share this concern and approved Resolution #2017-05-088 creating the Court Security Services Unit in 2017.

Today, security responsibilities have expanded greatly, including not only six courtrooms but five hearing rooms (Friend of the Court, Juvenile Court, and District Court Magistrate), district and juvenile probation office security incidents, interior and exterior perimeter security camera monitoring, in-custody transfers, high-profile case coverage, and jury trials. These demands are straining our current staffing capacity and threaten the safety and security of the public and court employees.

In February 2025, the Courts' temporary, part-time Court Security Officer (CSO) position was not renewed. To remain mindful of staffing levels and budget constraints, we spent 2025 evaluating security operations, tracking coverage gaps, documenting instances requiring assistance from the Livingston County Sheriff's Department, and assessing the impact on existing CSO staff and supervisors.

We continue to maintain a strong partnership with Sheriff Murphy. However, we are aware of his limited resources and need to protect the entire public. Continuing to provide this level of support to the courts will not be sustainable long term.

Despite efforts to prioritize coverage with existing resources, the Courts experienced a 143% increase in security incidents during 2025. The demand for security at the Judicial Center, Law Center and Brighton Court continues to escalate and we need to increase staffing now in an effort toward meeting safety demands. The security of our judges, staff, and community remains our highest priority.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.