

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN, Your County Administration Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Public Defender's Office was created in 2016 via Resolution C1610291, to include but not limited to the staff levels required by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC)'s requirement for standardizing the provision of legal representation for indigent individuals charged with a crime; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners have approved variations to the complement in the Public Defender's Office to accommodate that requirement; and

WHEREAS, one of requirements the office is tasked with is the legal representation of Qualified Juveniles in the Trial Court – Family Division, which is currently being provided by contracted attorneys; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Public Defender and County Administrator are looking to elevate that service; and

WHEREAS, the County Administration Committee has authorized the submission of a proposal from the Berrien County Public Defender's Office to MIDC requesting Special Project Funds to create an Emerging Adult Task Force in Berrien County, both to elevate youth representation and to provide data collection to MIDC; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force Proposal would request a four staff member complement increase to work only on projects of the Berrien County Public Defender Emerging Adult Task Force.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that contingent upon funding authorization by MIDC for the Emerging Adult Task Force, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes the addition of the following positions to the Public Defender's Office:

ADD

(1) Assistant Public Defender II	(1) Assistant Public Defender III	(1) Social Worker	(1) Investigator
Grade: 12 Non-Union	Grade: 14 Non-Union	Grade: 8 Non-Union	Grade: 8 Non-Union

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any employee positions added in accordance with this funding will be eliminated by the Board of Commissioners should the grant be no longer sufficient to cover the cost of same.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BERRIEN COUNTY PERSONNEL AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Robert D. Harrison, Chairperson

Michael Majerek, Vice Chair

Rayonte D. Bell

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM			
Administration	<i>BT</i>	Date	4-4-22
Comments Attached			
Corporate Counsel	TH	Date	4/1/22
Comments Attached			