



City of Columbus

Office of City Clerk
90 West Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215-9015
columbuscitycouncil.org

Legislation Text

File #: 1399-2017, **Version:** 1

Background: This ordinance authorizes the Finance and Management Director to enter into contract with the Franklin County Public Defender Commission for providing legal counsel to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses. The Franklin County Public Defender Commission performs all the duties and responsibilities under Section 12 of the City Charter, Chapter 173 of the Columbus City Code and Sections 120.13 and 120.14(e) of the Ohio Revised Code in providing legal counsel to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses. Since 1976, the City has contracted with the Commission to represent in the Franklin County Municipal Court all indigent persons (based on poverty guidelines as determined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services) charged with violations of an ordinance of the City of Columbus. Except for State-charged misdemeanors, the City funds the Municipal Unit while the Franklin County Commissioners fund the balance.

This contract is presented on an understanding that the total cost of the 2017 program is \$5,717,338, of which the Franklin County Commissioners' portion is 54 percent and the City's portion is 46 percent. After 41 percent reimbursement from the State Public Defender Commission, it is expected that the cost to the city will be \$1,551,686. This amount is increased by \$14,146 from the 2016 expenditure reconciliation, resulting in a net 2017 contract amount of \$1,565,832. In the event the actual State-charged misdemeanors differ from the estimate, and/or the State reimburses at a different rate, the City may owe the County or be due reimbursement. A reconciliation will be conducted at year-end to determine the final charges.

Award of this contract meets relevant procurement provisions of Chapter 329 of the Columbus City Codes, 1959.

Franklin County Public Defender Commission, Contract Compliance #31-0890833

Emergency action is requested since the start of this contract was January 1, 2017. Action prior to this date was not possible until the 2016 contract expenses had been reconciled.

FISCAL IMPACT: This ordinance authorizes an expenditure of \$1,565,832 from the General Fund with the Franklin County Public Defender Commission for providing legal counsel to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses. The Department of Finance and Management budgeted \$1,200,000.00 in the General Fund for this contract. Due to a reduction in the State of Ohio reimbursement rate, the City's portion of the 2017 Public Defender contract increased by \$365,832.00. Therefore a transfer of funds within the General Fund is necessary to provide the additional funds necessary to adequately fund the contract. In 2016, \$903,569.00 was expended for these legal services.

To authorize and direct the City Auditor to transfer \$365,832.00 within the General Fund; to authorize the Director of the Department of Finance and Management to enter into a contract with the Franklin County Public Defender Commission to provide legal counsel to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses; to authorize the expenditure of \$1,565,832.00 from the General Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$1,565,832.00)

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus recognizes its responsibilities as defined in Section 12 of the City Charter, Chapter 173 of the Columbus City Code and Sections 120.13 and 120.14(e) of the Ohio Revised Code to provide legal counsel to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, in furtherance of the execution of its legal responsibilities, desires to provide such

legal services to the city's indigent citizens and others so situated, and to do so in cooperation with the Franklin County Public Defender Commission; and

WHEREAS, this contract is presented on an understanding that the total cost of the 2017 program is \$5,717,338, of which the Franklin County Commissioners' portion is 54 percent and the City's portion is 46 percent. After 41 percent reimbursement from the State Public Defender Commission, it is expected that the cost to the City will be \$1,551,686. This amount is increased by \$14,146 from the 2016 expenditure reconciliation, resulting in a net 2017 contract amount of \$1,565,832; and

WHEREAS, at the completion of the contract a reconciliation is performed based upon actual vs. anticipated expenditures, actual State-charged misdemeanors vs. anticipated, and actual State Public Defender Commission reimbursement vs. anticipated reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the City of Columbus in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director of Finance and Management to enter into a contract with the Franklin County Public Defender Commission in order to assure the continuity of legal services to indigent persons in Columbus thereby preserving the public peace, property, health, safety and welfare; now, therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the City Auditor be and is hereby authorized and directed to transfer \$365,832.00 within the General Fund 1000 per the account codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

See Attached File: Ord 1399-2017 Legislation Template.xls

SECTION 2. That the Director of the Department of Finance and Management be and is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the Franklin County Public Defender Commission of Columbus, Ohio for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

SECTION 3. That the expenditure of \$1,565,832, or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in the General Fund 1000, Subfund 100010 Object Class 03 - Contractual Services per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

See Attached File: Ord 1399-2017 Legislation Template.xls

SECTION 4. That the monies in the foregoing Sections shall be paid upon order of the Director of Finance and Management, and that no order shall be drawn or money paid except by voucher, the form of which shall be approved by the City Auditor.

SECTION 5. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 6. That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this ordinance.

SECTION 7. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.