

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 123

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF KENT, WITH THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, PORTAGE COUNTY, FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL COUNSEL TO INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED WITH POTENTIAL PENALTY OF INCARCERATION FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED IN VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCES OF SAID CITY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City has received the proposed contract from the Public Defender's office, and the contract is to take effect on January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City is obligated to enter into the agreement pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to contract, on behalf of the City of Kent, with the Office of the Public Defender, Portage County, for the provision of legal counsel to indigent persons charged with potential penalty of incarceration for offenses committed in violation of the ordinances of said city for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, said contract marked as Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: December 18, 2024
Date

J. T. Fiala
Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: December 18, 2024
Date

ATTEST: Kathleen Coleman
Kathleen Coleman
Interim Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF RESOLUTION No. 2024-123, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON December 18, 2024.

(SEAL)



KATHLEEN COLEMAN
INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL

EXHIBIT "A"

CONTRACT FOR COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE TO MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

AGREEMENT

This AGREEMENT, which is subject to and conditioned upon approval by the Ohio Public Defender Commission, is entered into between the Portage County Public Defender Commission, hereinafter called the Commission, and the City of Kent, Ohio, hereinafter called the City.

WHEREAS, the City recognizes its responsibilities under the laws of the State of Ohio and of the United States of America to provide legal counsel to indigent persons charged with potential loss of liberty offenses under its municipal ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City, in furtherance of the execution of its legal responsibilities, desires to contract with the Commission for delivery of legal services and representation by the Portage County Public Defender to the City's indigent citizens and others so situated.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties, in recognition of the foregoing, and in conformity with all applicable standards of indigency and other rules and standards established by the Ohio Public Defender Commission and the Office of the Ohio Public Defender, do hereby mutually agree to bind themselves as follows:

1. Scope of Work

The Commission shall, in a satisfactory and proper manner under the terms and conditions contained herein, provide legal counsel and representation to all indigent or otherwise eligible defendants charged with criminal violations of the City's municipal ordinances

which carry a potential penalty of incarceration. The eligibility for this service shall be determined by the Portage County Municipal Court and/or the Commission.

2. Compensation

The City shall pay to the Commission the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per charge which shall constitute payment for services rendered, and which is acknowledged by the parties as a fee which does not and shall not exceed the fee schedule in effect and adopted by the Portage County Commission for appointed counsel pursuant to its Resolution No. 99-377, dated June 1, 1999. In the event a case is closed and subsequently reopened under the same case number, the Commission shall be entitled to payment as if an additional criminal charge has been filed. The Commission shall provide an itemized accounting of cases handled in each quarter of the year.

3. Term of Service

The duration of this contract shall be for one (1) year commencing on January 1, 2025, and shall terminate on December 31, 2025, subject to the following:

- (a) The Commission shall not assign all or any part of this AGREEMENT without the prior written consent of the City, which consent shall not be reasonably withheld.
- (b) If the Commission should fail to fulfill in a reasonable, timely and proper manner, its obligations under this AGREEMENT, or if the Commission should substantially violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this AGREEMENT, the City shall thereupon have the right to terminate this AGREEMENT by giving written notice to the Commission of such termination and specifying an effective date thereof at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of said termination. Termination by

the City shall not constitute a waiver of any other right or remedy it may have at law or in equity for breach of the AGREEMENT by the Commission.

- (c) All amendments to this AGREEMENT agreed upon by the parties shall be in writing and made a part of this AGREEMENT.
- (d) There shall be no discrimination against any employee who is employed in the work covered by the AGREEMENT or against any application for such employment because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. This provision shall apply but is not to be limited to employment, promotion, demotion, transfer, recruitment, recruitment advertising, lay-off, termination, raises of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Commission shall insert a similar provision in any sub-contract for services covered by this AGREEMENT.
- (e) The Commission covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner with the performance of services required under this Agreement. No members of the Congress of the United States of America, or delegates thereto, and no resident commissioner shall share in any part hereof or any benefits arising here from.

4. Duties:

“Indigency shall be determined in conformity with all applicable standards of indigency under rule 120-1-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code and other rules and standards established by the Ohio Public Defender Commission and the Office of the Ohio Public Defender.” “In addition to indigency determination, all rules, standards and guidelines

issued by the office of the Ohio Public Defender and Ohio Public Defender Commission shall be followed.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands this _____ day of _____, 202____.

FOR THE CITY:

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Dave Ruller, City Manager

Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hope L. Jones, Law Director
City of Kent

CERTIFICATE OF DIRECTOR OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

It is hereby certified that the amount of (\$20,000.00) required to meet the contract, agreement, obligation, payment or expenditure, for the above, has been lawfully appropriated or authorized or directed for such purposes and is in the City Treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of THE GENERAL Fund free from any obligation or certificates now outstanding.

Date

Rhonda Hall
Budget and Finance Director