

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF COLLIN

Subject: Resolution, Indigent Criminal Defense Costs – Commissioners Court

On **February 27, 2017**, the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in **regular session** with the following members present and participating, to wit:

**Keith Self
Susan Fletcher
Cheryl Williams
Chris Hill
Duncan Webb**

**County Judge, Presiding
Commissioner, Precinct 1
Commissioner, Precinct 2
Commissioner, Precinct 3
Commissioner, Precinct 4**

During such session the court considered adoption of the following resolution requesting that the Texas Legislature seek a reasonable solution to deal with burgeoning indigent criminal defense costs.

WHEREAS, Collin County expenditures for indigent criminal defense have more than doubled in the last 10 years, with actual expenditures regularly cresting budgeted funds since Fiscal Year 2007; and,

WHEREAS, Budgeting local tax dollars for indigent criminal defense has become virtually impossible to predict or meet, with nine out of the last ten fiscal budgets facing overruns by as much as \$2.1 million; and,

WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2016 alone, indigent criminal defense expenditures came to \$9.2 million for a \$7.5 million budget that saw more than 1,900 additional indigent criminal cases than the previous year, swelling the caseload over the 10,000 mark; and,

WHEREAS, The growth rate of indigent criminal defense expenditures is double the pace of new felony indictments each year over the last decade and far outpaces that of new misdemeanor case filings; and,


WHEREAS, Collin County taxpayers paid more than twice as much in Fiscal Year 2016 to provide indigent criminal defense than they did to provide state-mandated health care services for eligible indigent residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, the members of the Collin County Commissioners Court give their unanimous support and agreement that members of the Texas Legislature help Texas counties find a reasonable solution to deal with burgeoning indigent criminal defense costs at taxpayers' expense, while providing competent legal counsel for eligible defendants.

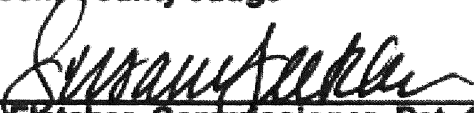
Passed and approved on the 27th day of February, 2017.



ATTEST:


Stacey Kemp, Ex-Officio Clerk
Commissioners Court
Collin County, TEXAS


Keith Self, County Judge


Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1


Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2


Chris Hill, Commissioner, Pct. 3


Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4