

gms
4/14

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: SUPERIOR COURT

DATE: February 8, 2013

REQUEST: Restore Superior Court Commissioner Removed in the 2013-14 Adopted Budget.

CHECK ONE: X Consent CAO

BACKGROUND: The purpose of this staff report is to request funding for a 3rd commissioner for Superior Court. The position was created in 2006 in response to several workload increases and pursuant to a judicial needs analysis performed by the State Court Administrative Office pursuant to RCW 2.56.030 showing the Court's judicial requirements to be 14.12 full time equivalent positions. Currently the Court is staffed with 12.40 positions and with the recent retirement of Judge Diane Woolard (Department 8) is down to 11.40 positions. This includes the position of Amy Swingen which is fully reimbursed by the (State) Department of Social and Health Services (approximately \$40K yearly). Currently, given the increase in Dependency Case filings and considerably more Family Law filings than expected, as well as an increase in Criminal filings along with the departure of Judge Woolard from the bench beginning December 1st of 2012, the Superior Court is experiencing a crisis inability to meet its' obligations to the citizens of Clark County as well as the Case processing standards of the Washington State Supreme Court.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Since this request is to reinstate a position previously approved in a prior budget process all requirements for outreach have been met.

BUDGET AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS: Initially this request will be budget neutral using salary savings from Judge Woolard's vacated position to fund the Commissioner, however a decision package will be introduced in the next available supplemental budget process to restore full funding for the position.

FISCAL IMPACTS


Yes (see attached form) No

ACTION REQUESTED: Request that the Board of County Commissioners give immediate permission to proceed with the hiring of a Superior Court Commissioner with final approval of the position and its funding in the next available budget supplemental action.



Submitted:

Approval Date: February 19, 2013


Jeffrey Amram, Administrator
Superior Court

Approved: 
Steve Stuart, CHAIR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DISTRIBUTION

Board of Clark County Commissioners
Bill Barron, County Administrator
Francine Reis, Director Human Resources
Jeff Amram, Superior Court Administrator
Barbara Johnson, Superior Court Judge
Nikki Peterson, Budget Office

SR 023-13



FISCAL IMPACT ATTACHMENT

Part I: Narrative Explanation

I. A – Estimated cost of Commissioner for three months covered by current budget for position vacated by Judge Woolard.

Part II: Estimated Revenues – Salary savings in current budget.

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary Savings	39514	39514				
Total	39514	39514				

II. A – Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)

Part III: Estimated Expenditures: Funding for Court Commissioner salary until next available supplemental.

III. A – Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTE	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Commissioner Salary		39514	39514				
Total							

III. B – Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits	39514	39514				
Contractual						
Supplies						
Travel						
Other controllables						
Capital Outlays						