

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.2
(ID # 13301)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, September 15, 2020

FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Introduction of Ordinance No. 960 Relating to Compensation of Civil Grand Jurors; Proposed Increase to the Civil Grand Jury fee from \$25 to \$60 per day; All Districts. [\$180,708 - General Fund]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Introduce, read title, waive further reading of, and adopt on successive weeks Ordinance No. 960, an Ordinance of the County of Riverside relating to compensation of Civil Grand Jurors so as to increase the daily fee from \$25 to \$60 per day.

ACTION: Policy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Van Wagenen", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Van Wagenen, Assistant CEO / Public Safety 8/31/2020

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Washington and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended, and that Ordinance 960 is approved as introduced with waiver of the reading.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: September 15, 2020
xc: EO, COB

Kecia Harper
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy

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| FINANCIAL DATA | Current Fiscal Year: | Next Fiscal Year: | Total Cost: | Ongoing Cost |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| COST | \$ 180,708 | \$ 180,708 | N/A | N/A |
| NET COUNTY COST | \$ 180,708 | \$ 180,708 | N/A | N/A |
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: Department Budget – 100% General Fund | | | Budget Adjustment: | No |
| | | | For Fiscal Year: | 20/21 |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

California Penal Code sections 888 through 945 govern grand juries in California. All California Civil Grand Jurors serve a one-year term, with the workload varies depending on the number of citizen complaints submitted, independent inquiries, tours, interviews, research, document/record reviews and drafting reports. Grand Jurors provide comprehensive reports at the end of their one-year term, reflecting the results of their investigations into their County agencies, cities and special districts. For their efforts, Civil Grand Jurors are paid a daily fee.

The authority for Civil Grand Juror fees is set forth in Penal Code §890 which sets the daily fee at \$15 per day, plus mileage reimbursement, unless a higher fee is established by County ordinance. In Riverside County, the fees for our Civil Grand Jurors were increased from \$15 to \$25 per day in 1993. That per diem has not been increased in almost thirty years. The Civil Grand Jury has requested an increase in their daily fee from \$25 per day to \$60 per day. At the request of the Board's Budget Subcommittee for Administrative Services, Economic Development and Community Services, the Executive Office completed an analysis. The typical work week for our Civil Grand Jury is Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Jurors are required to be in attendance for at least four hours each workday to receive the \$25 fee. (Fees are reduced to \$15 per day if a juror works less than four hours per workday.)

By way of comparison, the surrounding counties handle the Civil Grand Juror fee this way:

- Los Angeles: Fees were increased in 2007 to \$60 per day. The work week is Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. There is no minimum number of hours to qualify for their fee.
- Orange: Fees were increased in 2001 to \$50 per day. The work week is Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 2:00 pm, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:00pm. There is no minimum number of hours to qualify for their fee.
- San Diego: Fees are \$25 per day. The jurors must commit to serving at least 32 hours, four days per work week.
- San Bernardino: Fees were increased in 2018 to \$60 per day. The work week is Tuesday through Thursday, and the hours vary. There is no minimum number of hours to qualify for their fee.

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To bring us in line with our surrounding counties and in recognition of the important work done by the Civil Grand Jury, the Executive Office recommends that civil grand juror fee in Riverside County be increased from \$25 to \$60. This would result in an annual increase of their budget of approximately \$180,708, from \$400,000 to \$580,708. Consistent with Penal Code §890, adoption of Ordinance No. 960 would establish the increased daily fee.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Civil grand juries provide an important oversight to local government. They help to ensure that local governments are run more efficiently and ethically. Being a member of the civil grand jury offers the opportunity to be informed in depth on local government while serving the community.

Additional Fiscal Information

The cost of this adjustment was included in the department's adopted budget for the current fiscal year and no additional funding is being requested.


Cheryl Williams 8/31/2020


Gregory E. Priaplos, Director County Counsel 8/24/2020

