



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS  
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

## RESOLUTION 26-009

### AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

**WHEREAS**, the municipal public defender serves as defense attorney for all indigent persons accused of violations of the State, disorderly persons' act, motor vehicle statutes or any offense or charge which carries a potential penalty of a substantial fine, incarceration or a loss of driving privileges; and,

**WHEREAS**, at the discretion of the municipal court judge, and based upon the defendant's financial situation, the Court may appoint the municipal public defender to represent the individual's interests; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 2B:24-4 requires a municipal public defender to be an attorney-at-law of this State in good standing, and shall serve for a term of one (1) year from the date of his appointment, and may continue to serve in office pending re-appointment or appointment of a successor.

**WHEREAS**, Kevin P. Wigenton, Esq. is an attorney-at-law licensed by the State of New Jersey who is familiar and experienced with municipal defense law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands as follows:

1. Kevin P. Wigenton, Esq. of the Wigenton Law Firm is hereby appointed Public Defender in the Borough of Highlands for the one-year term for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 for an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00.
2. This appointment is made without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i) because it is for services performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.
3. A copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Borough of Highlands.
4. The Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to publish public notice of this award as required by law.

Motion to Approve R 26-009:

	INTRODUCED	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CERVANTES						
CHELAK						
MELNYK						
OLSZEWSKI						
BROULLON						

This is a Certified True copy of the Original Resolution on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

DATE OF VOTE: January 1, 2026

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Nancy Tran, Municipal Clerk  
Borough of Highlands