

CITY OF LYNDEN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Meeting Date:	March 15, 2021	
Name of Agenda Item:	Amendment to Public Defender's Contract	
Section of Agenda:	New Business	
Department:	Administration	
Council Committee Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Development <input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	Legal Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> No - Not Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> Review Not Required	
Attachments:	Amended Public Defender Contract, red-lined version Amended Public Defender Contract, clean version	
Summary Statement:	<p>Angela Anderson became Lynden's Public Defender in October 2019 and entered into a contract with the city for a term that ends in October 2021. She recently asked that some terms in the agreement be changed to reflect local market rates. Specifically, she asked that the pay for cases she is assigned to be raised from \$275/case to \$350/case. This amount is consistent with the per case rate in Ferndale, Sumas and Blaine. She also asked that the rate for the more labor-intensive cases involving Driving Under the Influence and certain Domestic Violence be increased to \$400/case.</p> <p>Together, these changes would add an estimated \$12,150 cost to the annual contract (about \$8,000 for the remainder of 2021). The amended contract would increase the assigned case rate effective immediately, while the DUI and DV case rates would take effect Nov. 1 this year.</p> <p>In exchange for amending the contract before it expires in October, Ms. Anderson has agreed to extend her contract for two years, meaning it will expire in October 2023.</p> <p>Ms. Anderson is well regarded by her colleagues in Lynden's Municipal Court, including Judge Lewis, and together they operate as an efficient team. There is no metric that can prove the efficacy of our Court, but there is little doubt that a smoothly working court system saves Lynden much more than the additional cost of this contract amendment.</p>	
Recommended Action:	Amend the contract with Ms. Anderson to include the changes as described.	