

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO.: C-7003

COUNCIL SPONSORS: BURKE, TANNER, LAUGHLIN, IMPASTATO, CORBIN, COUGLE PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE PARISH PRESIDENT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, SHERIFF AND DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, IN CONCERT WITH PARISH COUNCIL, TO NEGOTIATE, IN GOOD FAITH, AN AGREEMENT IN REGARDS TO STATE MANDATED FUNDING TO INCLUDE RESOLUTION OF CURRENT AND AVOIDANCE OF FUTURE LITIGATION.

WHEREAS, in 2022 the St. Tammany Parish Council authorized the Parish President to appoint Daigle, Fisse, PLS as outside counsel for the purpose of obtaining a determination of Parish obligations to fund state mandated expenses for its jail and justice system; and

WHEREAS, the litigation is ongoing regarding the 22nd Judicial District Attorney's operating budget, as well as the jail operations managed by the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the amount of funding established through litigation for the 22nd Judicial District Judiciary as well as the City Court of East St. Tammany will not support the current level of services provided by these agencies;

WHEREAS, the judgments do not represent a savings to the Parish, but rather a potentially significant reduction in services to the community; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Government has spent \$440,000 to date in litigation costs, which are funded by taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, residents enjoy a high quality of life due to the efficient and effective criminal justice system in St. Tammany, it is in the best interest of the community, St. Tammany Parish Government and the associated governmental agencies to work together to end the current, and forestall future, litigation and reach reasonable and equitable agreements on a long-term funding solution for each agency; and

WHEREAS, the Parish President has the authority to negotiate an agreement, on behalf of St. Tammany Parish Government; and

WHEREAS, the District Attorney has the authority to negotiate an agreement on behalf of the 22nd Judicial District Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Sheriff has the authority to negotiate an agreement on behalf of the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge has the authority to negotiate an agreement on behalf of the 22nd Judicial District Court which put an end to further litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires all elected officials in St. Tammany to work together to find innovative solutions so to serve our community to the best of our collective ability; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Council desires these agencies to agree on a level of funding which adequately supports the justice systems and maintains a balanced budget.

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES to request the Parish President, District Attorney, Sheriff, and Judges, to collaboratively negotiate, in good faith and in concert with the Parish Council, agreements in regard to the Parish's commitment to state mandated funding for these agencies.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

ARTHUR A. LAUGHLIN, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL