



**King County**

## **Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting**

**Thursday, June 2, 2022  
9:30am – 12:00pm**

### **VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING**

#### **1. Welcome**

**Attending virtually:** Chris Carney (chair), Shoshana Kehoe (vice chair), Lou Frantz, John Strait, Angélica Cházaro, Nyema Clark, Andres Muñoz

**Not present:** Shrounda Selivanoff, Adam Chromy, Judge Michael Trickey (ret), Judge Ron Whitener (ret), Safia Ahmed

#### **2. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on April 7, 2022**

John Strait moves, Lou Frantz seconds. Minutes approved.

#### **3. Remarks from SEIU Representatives (Molly Gilbert)**

Molly says ITA attorneys have returned to most of the workplaces – there are now air purifiers in each of the courtrooms, but DPD is still navigating to make sure the hospitals are holding up their end of the bargain. A new labor agreement will be sent to members soon, extending the attorney pay scale by four steps; LASs have been reclassified with a 10% wage increase and a Legal Assistant Lead.

#### **4. Remarks from Teamsters Representatives (Rachael Schultz)**

Rachael says they're getting ready to ratify the contract this week. ITA Teamster supervisors dropped off PPE at multiple locations this week and last so ITA courts are ready to go. Working with the DO on other needs.

#### **5. Director's Report**

##### **Filings, caseloads, and other stats (Gordon and Stev)**

- Superior Court felony filings have remained in the low 400 range with many more in Seattle than Kent.
- Assignments are at 475 in 30 days. DPD is equipped to handle 500 cases in a 30-day period.
- SMC filings in March, April and May are much higher than 2021, and June is expected to be similar.

- May assignments to assigned counsel for conflicts were lower month; we're keeping more cases in house. We've added three new capacity counsel contracts for Murder 1 and 3-Strike cases.

### **Court rules (Anita)**

The Supreme Court has temporarily suspended two new court rules that affect how juvenile records are accessed and viewed to allow more deliberation: GR 31 – “Access to Court Records,” disallowing information from an official juvenile offender court record to be displayed on a publicly accessible website; and CrR2.1, requiring juvenile court pleadings and case captions to use a juvenile's initials, as done by appellate courts.

### **Policy and Training (Anita)**

The City Attorney's Office released its “High Utilizer Initiative” (HUI) list – approximately 118 people they seek to prosecute more aggressively. Our analysis of the list showed it was largely made up of people with competency issues and housing instability. South Seattle Emerald published an op-ed by Anita and Mark Stroh, ED of Disability Rights Washington, two weeks ago, where we raised our concerns about the CAO's effort. Over our objection, SMC agreed to exclude everyone on the HUI list from Community Court.

### **Training (Anita)**

DPD's Rule 9 Summer Interns start Monday, June 6. Our Court Watch Twitter account has been on spring break, will resume soon. We're holding our annual gathering Aug. 10. Previously called it an annual conference, which was more skills-based. Because of Covid, people are not wanting to do things inside – as a result, this gathering will be more of an opportunity to connect.

## **6. Chair's report (Chris)**

**Anita's reappointment:** The County Council would like to hear from the Board about Anita's reappointment. Historically, boards have not been asked to weigh in on reappointments. This must be done in a public meeting; the next hearing is set for June 15.

John Strait moved that the Board recommend to the council that Anita be reappointed and that the Chair draft it on behalf of PDAB. Angélica Cházaro seconded it. Motion passed.

Chris Carney will draft a letter recommending Anita's reappointment and reminding the Council that the position is independent and that her past policy positions have been well within that independence. Chris will circulate the letter to the Board by June 10 and submit it to the Council by June 15.

## **7. Executive session**

Executive session held.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourns at 11:20 a.m.