

**Amending The 2023 County Budget To Create A Full-Time Mental Health Specialist (Social Worker), A Full-Time Paralegal, And Establish A Full-Time Family Court Bureau Chief With A Salary Increase – Public Defender’s Office**

Referred to: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairwoman Hansut and Legislators Hewitt, Fabiano, and Uchitelle), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gavaris and Legislators Cahill, Criswell, Roberts, and Ronk)

Chairwoman of the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee, Gina Hansut, and Deputy Chair Chris Hewitt offer the following:

WHEREAS, this resolution has been submitted at the request of the County Executive on behalf of the Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, the Public Defender has requested that the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature be authorized to enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for the purpose of Ulster County’s participation in the Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement & Caseload Reduction, Contract No: C2NDUFD51, for the period 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2025; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement & Caseload Reduction grant initiative is to support providers of representation of family court defense in upstate New York, and improve the quality of representation for parents involved in Article 10 child welfare matters; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County was awarded up to \$215,018.00 for 2023 for the addition of a full-time Mental Health Specialist (Social Worker) and full-time Paralegal for the Public Defender’s Family Court Unit, along with a salary increase elevating a full-time Assistant Public Defender to Family Court Bureau Chief to supervise work under this initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Specialist (Social Worker) and Paralegal positions, and Family Court Bureau Chief salary increase, and associated fringe benefits will be funded (by reimbursement) by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services (NYSOILS) Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement & Caseload Reduction, Contract No: C2NDUFD51; and

WHEREAS, the Public Defender requests the 2023 Ulster County Budget be amended to include one new full-time Social Worker, one new full-time Paralegal, and a salary increase for the designated Family Court Bureau Chief; and

**Resolution No. 292      May 16, 2023**

**Amending The 2023 County Budget To Create A Full-Time Mental Health Specialist (Social Worker), A Full-Time Paralegal, And Establish A Full-Time Family Court Bureau Chief With A Salary Increase – Public Defender’s Office**

WHEREAS, in order to reflect this, an amendment of the 2023 budget is necessary; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2023 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**CREATE**

<b><u>POSITION #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
1170-1460 (PL#) *Annual Salary Annual Benefits \$34,214	Mental Health Specialist (Full-Time)	\$ 68,360.00*
1170-1461 (PL#) *Annual Salary Annual Benefits \$29,551	Paralegal (Full-Time)	\$ 59,041.00*

**INCREASE**

<b><u>POSITION #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
1170-1160 (PL#) *New Annual Salary – \$99,813 Annual Benefits Adjustment \$2,950	Assistant Public Defender (Full-Time)	\$ 14,000.00*

**INCREASE**

**AMOUNT**

AA.1170.1046-1300.1300 (App. #)	Regular Pay	\$ 88,648.00
AA.1170.1046-8000.8000 (App.#)	Retirement	\$ 11,897.00
AA.1170.1046-8010.8010 (App.#)	Social Security	\$ 6,782.00

**Resolution No. 292      May 16, 2023**

**Amending The 2023 County Budget To Create A Full-Time Mental Health Specialist (Social Worker), A Full-Time Paralegal, And Establish A Full-Time Family Court Bureau Chief With A Salary Increase – Public Defender’s Office**

AA.1170.1046-8020.8035      Health Insurance      \$ 23,148.00  
(App.#),

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that if funding for this program is eliminated, the Commissioner of Finance shall, immediately upon discovery, send written notification to the Clerk of the Legislature, and the relevant Department Head shall attend the next regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee to assist the Committee in review and evaluation for determination of the program’s continuance,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Litts)

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety as amended on May 4, 2023

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on May 9, 2023

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

\$130,475.00 – 2023 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION DOLLARS

\$130,475.00 – 2023 ADDITIONAL NYS REVENUE DOLLARS

**Resolution No. 292      May 16, 2023**

**Amending The 2023 County Budget To Create A Full-Time Mental Health Specialist (Social Worker), A Full-Time Paralegal, And Establish A Full-Time Family Court Bureau Chief With A Salary Increase – Public Defender’s Office**

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 16<sup>th</sup> Day of May in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of May in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

[s] Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this  
19<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2023.

Approved by the County Executive this  
25<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2023.

[s] Victoria A Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

[s] Jen Metzger  
Jen Metzger, County Executive