

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-358

**First Reading Passage Requested**

**(B. Harnak)**

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

DATE December 8, 2025

COMMITTEE Public Safety

**A Resolution authorizing the Executive, subject to approval by the Board of Control, to execute a professional service contract between the Legal Defenders Office of Summit County, Ohio, Inc. and the Summit County Public Defender Commission for legal defender services for indigent persons on behalf of the Summit County Public Defender Commission, for a one-year term, for the period of 1/1/26 through 12/31/26, in an amount not to exceed \$7,283,062.00, for the Executive and the Summit County Public Defender Commission, and declaring an emergency.**

WHEREAS, the County has formed the Summit County Public Defender Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Chapter 120 the Ohio Revised Code (“ORC”); and

WHEREAS, the Commission is responsible for providing legal defense services to certain indigent persons charged with the commission of crimes under the ORC, the Codified Ordinances of the County of Summit and various municipal ordinances within the boundaries of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized by Section 120.14 of the ORC to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide legal services to indigent persons; and

WHEREAS, the Commission wishes to contract with the Legal Defender’s Office of Summit County, Ohio, Inc. (“Legal Defender”), a nonprofit corporation, to provide legal representation to indigent persons on behalf of the Commission, for a one-year term, for the period of 1/1/26 through 12/31/26, for an amount not to exceed \$7,283,062.00; and

WHEREAS, the Executive is required to execute the aforementioned contract, the cost of which will be paid out of funds appropriated by this Council, and it is expected, 82% or \$5,972,110.84 of which, will be reimbursed by the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Control, at its meeting on December 10, 2025, will consider the professional service contract with the Legal Defender and the Commission for legal defender services for indigent persons on behalf of the Commission, for a one-year term, for the period of 1/1/26 through 12/31/26, in an amount not to exceed \$7,283,062.00, subject to confirmation by this Council; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to authorize the Executive to execute, subject to the approval of the Board of Control, the aforementioned professional service contract with the Legal Defender:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State of Ohio, that:

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SECTION 1

The Executive is hereby authorized to execute a professional service contract and any other necessary related documents, subject to the approval of the Board of Control, between the Legal Defender's Office of Summit County, Ohio, Inc. and the Summit County Public Defender Commission for legal defender services for indigents on behalf of the Commission, for a one-year term, for the period of 1/1/26 through 12/31/26, in an amount not to exceed \$7,283,062.00.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the County of Summit, and for the further reason to immediately provide necessary legal defender services for indigent persons in 2026.

SECTION 3

Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

SECTION 4

It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

INTRODUCED December 8, 2025

ADOPTED December 8, 2025

Signed by:

*Monique Willis*

CLERK OF COUNCIL

DocuSigned by:

*Rita S. Darrow*

PRESIDENT OF BOARD

APPROVED December 8, 2025

Signed by:

*Steve Shapiro*

EXECUTIVE

Voice Vote – YES: 11 – 0: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

ENACTED EFFECTIVE December 9, 2025