

AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF THE LTE HOURS IN THE DANE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OFFICE VICTIM WITNESS UNIT

With the combined emergencies in Dane County caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and backlog of cases, dramatic increase in homicides, attempted homicides and other gun violence and the unfunded mandate passed in the 2020 Spring election for immediate implementation of Marsy’s Law (the WI Crime Victims Constitutional Amendment), the Victim Witness Unit of the Dane County District Attorney’s Office, has been providing critical and constitutionally mandated services to victims of crime. In order to provide these services, the District Attorney’s Office employs a number of limited term employees (LTEs). Among them: one LTE is communicating with crime victims, informing them of their rights under the new law and assisting in safety planning with and for victims and their children. The second LTE is working to notify victims of upcoming court dates and administrative duties necessary to maintain victim right’s compliance with both statute and the Constitutional Amendment, a task VW Case Managers are no longer able to maintain given the exceedingly high caseloads.

Dane County’s Civil Service Ordinance, section 18.16(1)(a), limits limited term employees to 1,200 hours per year. One of the LTEs referenced above is approaching the limit for LTE’s. The others will do before years’ end. The Dane County District Attorney’s Office is requesting an extension of hours to retain this capacity as part of its effort to maintain compliance with mandates and to respond to public safety in Dane County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 323.14, the Dane County Board of Supervisors grants an exception to Ordinance 18.16 (1)(a) to allow the three LTE positions referenced above in the Dane County District Attorney’s Office to exceed 1,200 hours in the 2022 payroll year.