

**RECOGNIZING THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE OF PRETRIAL SERVICES**

The 2022 Dane County Operating Budget resolution, 2021 RES-193, established the creation of a new agency, the Office of Pretrial Services. Previously, the pretrial supervision function had been provided by a subunit of the Clerk of Circuit Court’s office. The new office was created in September, 2022, with the appointment of its new Director, Rhonda Frank-Loron, effective December 5, 2022.

One of the crucial functions of this office is the creation of Public Safety Assessments to help guide bail conditions set by judges and judicial court commissioners. Staff performing these risk assessments require formal certification from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and the agency from which they access criminal history records must be assigned a unique Originating Agency Identifier (ORI), assigned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In order to qualify for an ORI, an agency must engage in the administration of criminal justice, as defined under Title 28, Code of federal regulations, Part 20.3, as follows: “performance of any of the following activities: detection, apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal offenders.” Pretrial Services staff had previously accessed criminal history records under the Dane County Circuit Court ORI.

The Office of Pretrial Services performs pretrial release supervision for persons accused of crimes who are referred to that office by court order. The stated mission of that Office is “[To] provide pretrial services to defendants in the Dane County Criminal Courts. As Agents of the Court, we strive to increase public protection through the supervision of bail conditions, provide referrals to community resources and support, and offer opportunities for positive change, no matter the outcome of their case. As Social Workers, we are committed to providing quality services in a respectful manner to our diverse client population with the goals of minimizing unnecessary pretrial detention, reducing missed court appearances, and preventing new arrests while on bond.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes the Office of Pretrial Services as meeting the definition of a criminal justice agency as defined in Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.3 insofar as it is responsible for administering supervision for criminal defendants during pretrial release.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervises urges the Wisconsin Department of Justice to facilitate the issuance of an ORI to the Dane County Office of Pretrial Services so that staff may continue to access state and federal criminal history records for the purpose of generating the Public Safety Assessments.