2023 RES-382 (AMENDED BY PP&J 03/12/2024)

INCREASING DAILY WAGE OF DANE COUNTY JAIL RESIDENTS

Residents of the Dane County Jail currently earn a wage of $3.00 per day for work they perform while incarcerated.

Dane County acknowledges this current rate of payment for jail residents is insufficient. To make an immediate impact on this, we will double the daily wage rate. We acknowledge this is a small interim step and that the County Board needs to explore additional ways to remedy this wage insufficiency in the future.

Dane County understands that most correctional facilities in the United States do not currently pay a higher daily wage up to $6.00 per day; however, we want to set a higher standard and be an example for other communities on this issue.

We know that formerly incarcerated people experience higher levels of poverty upon reentry to their communities. By increasing the daily wage of the residents of the Dane County Jail, we hope to reduce the rates of poverty of the jail residents and improve their opportunities to support themselves and their families during incarceration and upon release from the Dane County Jail.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all residents of the Dane County Jail shall receive a wage increase to $6.00 per day for work performed while a resident of the Dane County Jail.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this is a first step and that the Dane County Board is directed to review further changes to improve jail resident wages for the future and ensure that the increase in expenditures does not negatively impact the Sheriff's budget.