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**2022 RES-226**

**AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR RELOCATED JAIL RESIDENTS TO PROVIDE FOR VISITATION AND OTHER COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILY WHILE HOUSED IN JAILS OUTSIDE OF DANE COUNTY**

Background

Nearly six years ago the Dane County Jail Update Study (Health and Life Safety) found that “Dane County should not consider extending the life of the CCB Jail, but should work towards getting out of the building with due haste.”

In August of 2022, without an alternative safe facility in Dane County, the Sheriff’s Office began relocating some jail residents to other county jails. The lack of safe and humane jail space, along with staffing shortages within the Dane County Sheriff’s Office, led to the decision to close the east section of the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the City-County Building, which is the oldest area of the jail.

On average approximately 65 men and women are housed out-of-county in Rock, Iowa, and Oneida County Jails.

Impact of Resident Relocation

Residents of the Dane County Jail are afforded opportunities to visit with family and loved ones in-person with up to two scheduled forty-five (45) minute visits per week without any cost to the resident or the person visiting them. When housed out of Dane County, the opportunity for family, friends, and loved ones to visit residents who are in-custody becomes logistically difficult and in some cases cost prohibitive.

Without a reasonable opportunity to take advantage of free in-person visitation, the only alternative to maintain communication with family, friends, and loved ones is to use video visitation, telephone communications, or tablet texting services, all of which charge a fee for service.

Multiple studies have found residents who maintain contact with supportive family members are more likely to succeed after their release and reintegrate back into their communities; and

A 2006 article in Family Law Quarterly titled, “Recidivism and Paternal Engagement” found that increased communication between residents and their children positively impacts recidivism rates and suggests that facilities should encourage developing parent child relationships while incarcerated; and

The cost associated with video visitation, phone communications, and texting applications can be a significant barrier to communication; since video visitation is charged at \$.39 per minute, telephone communication is \$.08 per minute, and text communication is \$.13 per minute, the Sheriff’s Office is proposing to provide each relocated resident \$10 per week for the purpose of maintaining communication for an estimated average of 65 residents relocated per day.

Because connections to one’s community are positively correlated to reduced rates of recidivism and successful reentry, the Dane County Board of Supervisors should facilitate the ability for residents to communicate with individuals in their community even when housed outside of Dane County.

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**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** residents housed out of Dane County receive funding for the purpose of maintaining communication with family, friends and loved ones.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sheriff's Office is authorized to provide each relocated resident \$10 per week for the purpose of maintaining communication for an estimated average of 65 residents relocated per day.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following adjustments are made to the 2022 Budget for the Sheriff's Office:

SHRFSEC (NEW) Relocated Resident Visitation	\$7,800
SHRFSEC 21611 Inmate Betterment Funds	(\$7,800)

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that all unexpended funds from the above referenced budget account line is carried forward until fully expended.