2023 RES-372

TRANSFERRING CRIMINAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE FUNDS FROM MISCELLANEOUS CRIMINAL JUSTICE FUNDS TO THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE REFORM AND EQUITY

In 2023, Dane County approved a new Office of Criminal Justice Reform and Equity (OJR). As articulated in the budget, the mission of the Office of Criminal Justice Reform is to marshal and coordinate resources both within and outside the county criminal justice system to reduce incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal justice system. The Director position will be filled in 2024, and subsequent critical staff hires will then be completed.

Since 2011, the Dane County Community Justice Council, formerly the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) has worked to increase equity, transparency, and data driven decisions within the criminal justice system with collaborative multi-agency input. The criminal justice initiative funds were used for key reforms and reports, as well as ongoing work to improve pretrial processes. Transfer of funds will allow for critical OJR departmental and Community Justice Council development of policies and programs as the new department begins to further work on current reform initiatives, as well as explore innovative justice strategies. The miscellaneous criminal justice initiative lines, including stress test, community justice center needs assessment, and gifted funds for pretrial reforms from Arnold Ventures, will be used to continue this critical work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that accounts MCJLAWCL 21975 “Pretrial Services Initiative” be decreased by $18,359, MCJLAWCL 30625 “Community Just Ctr Needs Assess” be decreased by $13,947.01, and MCJLAWCL 30740 “Criminal Justice Stress Test” be decreased by $14,796.92, and OJR 20549 “CJ INITIATIVES” be increased by $47,102.93.