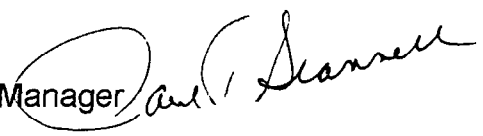


COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Interdepartmental Correspondence

DATE: February 27, 2001
HEARING DATE: March 6, 2001

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Paul T Scannell Assistant County Manager
SUBJECT: Private Defender Evaluation Committee Report



Recommendation:

Accept the Committee's report and direct the County Manager to incorporate the Board of Supervisor's recommendations in the negotiations with the Bar Association for the 2000-05 Private Defender contract

Background:

On November 17 2000 the Board of Supervisors appointed a five member committee to evaluate the County's contract with the San Mateo Bar Association (Bar) and to make recommendations for inclusion in the upcoming negotiations with the Bar for a new contract for Private Defender Services. The Committee members were: Don Heiman Chairman Marc Fagel Esq. Honorable Linda Gemello Ed Pliska Esq. and Bill Rapoport Esq.

Discussion:

The Committee held seven meetings and heard invited testimony from seven individuals representing a wide range of opinions on the status of indigent defense in San Mateo statewide and nationally. The meetings were open to the public and were regularly attended by the representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the NAACP who also contributed to the Committee's deliberations. The Committee has submitted its written report to the Board of Supervisors and was invited to attend the hearing today and present its findings. The Committee's findings and recommendations were adopted by a 4-1 vote but individual Committee members also submitted recommendations that are appended to the Committee's Findings and Recommendations that reflect particular recommendations that did not receive a majority vote from the Committee.

The negotiations with the Bar should be concluded in a timely manner in order to be included in the 2001-02 budget. The Board of Supervisors should direct staff to negotiate with the Bar those recommendations that the Board endorses.

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Fiscal Impact:

The current contract with the Bar expires on June 30 2001. The impact of the recommendations cannot be assessed until the negotiations are completed and the new contract is returned to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

PTS kjl

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