



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

For the meeting of: May 16, 2017

Date: May 10, 2017  
To: Board of Supervisors  
From: David G. Marcus, Public Defender  
Subject: Advance Salary Request for Deputy Public Defender, Brienne Bennett

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an advance salary step for Deputy District Attorney (DDA) III, Step C, Brienne Bennett, to Deputy Public Defender (DPD) III, Step E, effective May 22, 2017, pursuant to Section 7 of the Humboldt County Salary Resolution (4/5 vote required).

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Measure Z

DISCUSSION: Brienne Bennett has been selected to fill a Measure Z-funded position for Deputy Public Defender at the Public Defender's Office. Ms. Bennett is currently a Deputy District Attorney III Step C, and the request for a Step E level is to obtain parity, uniformity and consistency in the office, in addition to compensating Ms. Bennett fairly for her qualifications. Ms. Bennett's experience and knowledge of the law is equal to that of other attorneys in the office that are currently at a Deputy Public Defender (DPD) IV position. Ms. Bennett has the experience, knowledge and years of a practicing attorney which qualify her for a DPD III, Step E.

Ms. Bennett has 4 years and 5 months of experience as a practicing attorney. During that time she has

Prepared by Stacey Costa CAO Approval SM

REVIEW: WJH

Auditor WJH County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Human Resources WJH Other \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ITEM:

☒ Consent  
☐ Departmental  
☐ Public Hearing  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
Upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes  
Nays  
Abstain  
Absent

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

developed the necessary legal qualifications and experience to warrant an advanced step. This experience includes working on trials, directing investigative teams to prepare cases, misdemeanor and felony case experience, and working on high-profile sexual assault and child abuse cases, and homicide cases.

Ms. Bennett has drafted numerous pleadings and briefs, communicates well with experts regarding criminal matters and in addition to her work as a litigator, Ms. Bennett is a skilled negotiator.

Because of the above stated reasons, it is requested that Brienne be advanced to a Deputy Public Defender III step E.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The placement of Ms. Bennett at an advanced step will not have a significant impact on the Measure Z allocations. Measure Z allocations for the Public Defender's Office are already projected to come in under budget in the FY 2016-17 year by over \$109,000 due to vacancies in the office and because the DPD position funded by Measure Z allocations was previously filled by a DPD II.

The amount needed for a higher level DPD has already been included in the Measure Z budget allocations for this position for FY 2017-18.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS: