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January 11, 2022

Hon. Andrew Joyce
Chair, Albany County Legislature
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, New York 12209

Re: Request for legislative Action Extension of 2019 Resolution No. 28

Dear Chairperson Joyce:

I am respectfully requesting on behalf of the Albany County Public Defender's Office and the Albany County Alternative Public Defender's Office, an extension of Resolution No. 28 of 2019, adopted on February 11, 2019, and Resolution No. 42, amending and extending said Resolution No. 28 by including the Albany County Alternative Public Defender, until February 15 2022.

Both offices are recipients of substantial funding from the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services. This funding provides for additional staffing and support for indigent clients in both criminal courts and Family Court in Albany County. The Statewide Implementation of the Hurrel-Harring determination of State, not county responsibility for funding the expansion and improvement of indigent legal services for indigent individuals charged with crimes will continue to add staff attorneys to both offices over the next several years.

Both offices engage in ongoing recruitment for qualified attorneys in Albany County and throughout New York State. Prior to the County Legislature's approval of Resolution No. 28, only attorneys residing in Albany County were qualified for these positions. This requirement greatly diminished the capability of recruiting and hiring the very best attorneys admitted to practice in New York State. We very often were competing with New York State and the private sector for the limited number of attorneys qualified and interested in representing indigent clients in criminal proceedings.

Allowing our offices to recruit on a basis of qualification and interest focused, but not limited to the County of Albany, has enabled us to hire attorneys best qualified and suited for public service.

One year ago I wrote you indicating that since 2019, the Public Defender had hired ten new attorneys of which six were from out of county and had moved into Albany County. I can tell you once more that since my last request for an extension of Resolution No. 28 of 2019 on January 7, 2021, we have again hired ten new attorneys, six from other counties and states, all of whom have or are now, relocating to Albany County.

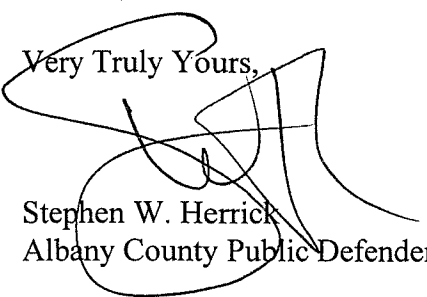
Our recruitment practice includes posting on the Albany County website, through Albany County Civil Service Commission, Albany Law School, New York State Defender's Association, and very importantly, and especially for in County recruitment, word of mouth.

Recruitment has been very successful and by allowing the one year relocation grace period, we have expanded and improved the number and quality of our attorneys making us better able to provide high quality representation to our clients.

I thank the County Legislature for its continued support of our offices and ask that this Resolution be further extended.

If you have any questions, or need further information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Very Truly Yours,



Stephen W. Herrick
Albany County Public Defender