



TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

County Courthouse, Room 101 / Woodville, Texas

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Martin Nash
Commissioner, Pct. 1

Rusty Hughes
Commissioner, Pct. 2

Jacques L. Blanchette
County Judge

Mike Marshall
Commissioner, Pct. 3

Jack Walston
Commissioner, Pct. 4

STATE OF TEXAS

§

§

RESOLUTION

COUNTY OF TYLER

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Indigent Defense

WHEREAS, the right to representation by legal counsel is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, State of Texas is required to implement this right and provide legal counsel to indigent criminal defendants; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Fair Defense Act, adopted by the Texas Legislature in 2001, implements this right and requires certain procedures and attorney appointments; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature has failed to provide sufficient funding to offset the costs of the Fair Defense Act and has shifted this cost to county taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, county expenditures for indigent criminal defense have increased over 100 percent since the adoption of the Fair Defense Act; and

WHEREAS, the state funding is totally inadequate, providing approximately 1.2 percent of the actual indigent defense costs from 2001 to 2016; and; and

WHEREAS, indigent criminal defense is a state responsibility that should be adequately funded on a statewide basis, not a burden overwhelmingly borne by local property taxpayers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED. this the ____ day of _____, 20__ by the Tyler County Commissioners Court that the State of Texas fully fund the costs of indigent criminal defense which has cost local taxpayers over \$2.4 billion since its passage in 2001.

Martin Nash, Commissioner Pct. 1

Mike Marshall, Commissioner Pct. 3

Rusty Hughes, Commissioner Pct. 2

Jack Walston, Commissioner Pct. 4

Jacques L. Blanchette, County Judge

Attest: _____
Donece Gregory, County Clerk