



Board of County Commissioners

Agriculture and Public Safety Committee

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION OF A LIMITED PART-TIME ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR (OHH) FOR THE SALEM COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO COMBAT OPIOID ADDICTION AND ADVANCE THE INTERVENTION, ADDICTION AND RECOVERY MISSION OF OPERATION HELPING HAND**

**WHEREAS**, the creation of new or additional positions of assistant prosecutor shall require authorization by the governing body of the county pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:158-15; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Prosecutor may appoint such assistant prosecutors as there appears to be a reasonable necessity therefor pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:158-15; and

**WHEREAS**, Salem County residents continue to experience the effects of the ongoing nationwide opioid crisis and the Salem County Prosecutor's Office remains a county and statewide leader in innovative and cooperative outreach, enforcement and prosecution efforts in addressing addiction and its effects within Salem County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office is permitted to use Operation Helping Hand funds previously awarded, but remaining unspent, in addition to future funding opportunities, to further benefit the Salem County Prosecutor's Office Operation Helping Hand programming; and

**WHEREAS**, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office seeks to implement a first-of-its-kind centralized screening program focused on adult drug-related cases and Recovery Court that will be pivotal in enhancing the Salem County Prosecutor's Office's ability both to streamline and effectively manage drug-related cases in a way that ensures just outcomes for both pre-indictment and post-indictment matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the addition of a Limited Part-Time Assistant Prosecutor (OHH) dedicated to the screening and management of drug cases and Recovery Court management will significantly reduce the time it takes to make a case eligible for diversion, Recovery Court, or pre-indictment accusation and plea resolutions which incorporate recovery elements in the sentence, thus expediting the rehabilitation process for offenders; enhance the ability to screen and manage drug cases effectively, ensuring timely and just resolutions; provide a more robust approach to addressing drug-related offenses, focusing on rehabilitation and prevention as well as prosecution; improve coordination and management of Recovery Court which will contribute to better outcomes for participants and the community; and will allow for the expansion of case management services in other areas by currently employed Assistant Prosecutors; and


**WHEREAS**, the Association of Assistant Prosecutors of Salem County has agreed that the addition of a Limited Part-Time Assistant Prosecutor (OHH) will benefit the Association and has agreed to same, in writing and as attached; and

**WHEREAS**, this position will be instrumental in the Salem County Prosecutor's Office's efforts to address the critical issue of drug-related crimes and backlog reduction, and will ensure that the Salem County Prosecutor's Office's prosecutorial practices uphold the highest standards of justice and community well-being; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Salem County Board of County Commissioners that:

1. The position of a Limited Part-Time Assistant Prosecutor (OHH) shall be approved and authorized as an addition to the total number of full-time Assistant Prosecutors currently authorized to be employed or offered employment by the Salem County Prosecutor's Office.
2. Such position shall be limited to the qualifications, experience, duties and responsibilities as requested by the Salem County Prosecutor's Office and subsequently authorized by Operation Helping Hand requirements and program management.
3. Such position shall be funded by Operation Helping Hand grant monies, to include those funds previously awarded but currently held in reserve, in addition to such additional funding as may be authorized by future Operation Helping Hand grant awards. This position shall terminate in the event funding through Operation Helping Hand is no longer able to support the position, unless the Salem County Prosecutor, the governing body of Salem County, and the Association of Assistant Prosecutors of Salem County shall engage in collective negotiations over the terms and conditions of their continued employment.
4. The appointment of the Limited Assistant Prosecutor (OHH) shall be made by the Salem County Prosecutor in accordance with the exclusive authorities and powers granted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:158-15 and shall be appointed without competitive bidding or solicitation.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true resolution adopted by the Salem County Board of County Commissioners on July 17, 2024.

  
 STACY L. PENNINGTON, Clerk of the Board

RECORD OF VOTE

COMMISSIONER	RESOLUTION MOVED	RESOLUTION SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
E. Ramsay		✓	✓			
C. Taylor						✓
D. Timmerman			✓			
G. Ostrum Jr.	✓		✓			
B. Laury			✓			

✓ Indicates Vote

Department Initials KJT/sw

## Side Bar Agreement

WHEREAS, the County of Salem, Salem County Prosecutor (collectively, the "Employer") and Salem County Assistant Prosecutors Association are parties to a collective negotiations agreement (CNA) concerning terms and conditions of employment for all full-time and part-time Assistant Prosecutors employed by the Employer; and

WHEREAS, Article 7 of the CNA governs base pay for all Assistant Prosecutors; and

WHEREAS, the Employer is a recipient of The Operation Helping Hands ("OHH") grant; and

WHEREAS, the Employer seeks to employ a part time Assistant Prosecutor using funds from the Operation Helping Hands ("OHH") grant; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to enter into this Side Bar Agreement following collective negotiations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows,

1. Upon receipt of the grant and approval by the County, the Employer shall attempt to hire one part-time Assistant Prosecutor who shall work hours in accordance with the county policy regarding part-time employees.
2. The salary of this part-time assistant prosecutor may deviate from Article 7 of the CNA but shall be published to the Association prior to the employee's date of hire. The salary shall not be subject to additional collective negotiations until the expiration or exhaustion of OHH grant funds.
3. Leave balances and benefits shall be in accordance with the county policy regarding part-time employees.
4. Upon the expiration or exhaustion of OHH grant funds, the employer may separate this part-time Assistant Prosecutor from employment or shall initiate and engage in collective negotiations over the terms and conditions of their continued employment.
5. This Agreement is not intended in any way to set precedent or to prejudice the respective positions of the parties with respect to this matter or any other future issue or dispute, grievance, unfair practice charge, or other legal matters. This Agreement may not be introduced or referred to for any purpose by either party in any subsequent administrative, judicial, or other legal proceeding. This Agreement may, however, be used in any proceeding necessary to compel enforcement of the Agreement.

FOR THE ASSOCIATION

FOR THE EMPLOYER

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Marina L. Riley, Asst. Pros.

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Kristin J. Telsey,  
Salem County Prosecutor

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Geoffrey E. Gleason, Asst. Pros.