

Good day,

My Name is AL McGee, I am a licensed Private Investigator in Oregon. I work with The Kenzie Group, We work primarily criminal defense cases mostly in Washington County, but we have cases in other parts of the state as well.

OPDC cases are around 95 percent of our caseload, with the remaining percentage consisting of retained/private clients.

Firstly, Thank you very much for discussing this matter, we appreciate it!

Securing the long-awaited increase to \$75/hour will make a significant difference in the quality of the PIs we can attract and retain on our team.

Our work can be stressful and dangerous. Increasingly, our case load demands that we find and interview subjects in homeless areas. In Multnomah County and some areas of Washington County, these areas are often difficult access for security reasons.

Because of these considerations, our team members need additional training and tools. All of these items require extra time and money to obtain.

As you know, Private investigators tools and training if needed are not paid for by OPDC, on the other hand, law enforcement works with the same population, but they are provided with 100's of hours a year of training and they drive government vehicles.

The pay rate for PIs has lagged significantly behind inflation for decades. The increase to \$75 makes sense based on the 1985 rate of \$25/hour when adjusted for inflation and other considerations. I believe the Federal Rate is at \$90/hour.

Another consideration is the fact that for most of us, we are running a business based on these pay rates. We pay for Licenses, an office, office supplies, phone accounts, insurances, vehicle expenses, taxes, marketing, administration costs, database subscriptions (TLO, DMV) and other business expenses. So, the hourly rate we collect does not all go into our pockets.

Regarding the implementation of the asked wage increase, I would encourage that this be accomplished sooner than later.

In addition, with the wage increase, we would be able to offer a pay rate that makes sense to prospective PI's who simply cannot work for what we can reasonably offer based on the current rates.

This will allow us to handle more cases, assisting more attorneys. I sincerely request you implement this increase by July of 2025.

In closing, I would like to again thank you for considering our wages and for pursuing the goal of securing solid defense teams for every Oregonian!

If you wish to speak to me, my number is 971-448-8383.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter!

Respectfully,

AL McGee