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[Office of the Public Defender Commission (OPDC)]

Subject: Support for a Long-Overdue Raise for OPDC-Funded Investigators

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for a well-deserved and long-overdue raise for private investigators working under OPDC funding. These dedicated professionals play a crucial role in ensuring justice by conducting thorough investigations, gathering essential evidence, and assisting in the defense of indigent clients. Despite their significant contributions, their compensation has remained stagnant for far too long, failing to reflect the rising costs of living, the complexity of their work, and the invaluable service they provide.

OPDC-funded investigators handle cases that require meticulous attention to detail, persistence, and a deep commitment to justice. They often work under difficult conditions, facing tight deadlines, uncooperative witnesses, and challenging case circumstances. Their efforts are instrumental in safeguarding the constitutional right to a fair defense, ensuring that all individuals—regardless of their financial status—receive a thorough and just legal representation.

Unfortunately, the current pay scale does not adequately recognize the expertise and risks involved in this profession. A failure to adjust wages to match inflation and industry

standards not only undermines morale but also risks the loss of experienced professionals who are essential to the integrity of our justice system. Moreover, competitive pay is necessary to attract and retain skilled investigators who are willing to dedicate themselves to this critical work.

I urge OPDC to take immediate action in addressing this long-standing issue by implementing a pay increase for OPDC-funded investigators. Fair compensation will not only improve job satisfaction and retention but will also enhance the quality of investigative services provided to public defenders, ultimately strengthening our legal system as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to justice and trust that you will prioritize this important matter. I would be happy to discuss this further and provide additional insights if needed.

Sincerely,

Dan Chastain