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RESOLUTION NO. 2018-148

MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND SUPPORTING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COORDINATING COUNCIL (CJCC) IN MISSOULA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Missoula County has been studying the status and possible improvements to the justice system, including commissioning the Jail Diversion Master Plan, implementing initial strategies to reduce the jail population and promote success of citizens in the community, developing a prosecution-led pretrial diversion program, and addressing disproportionality and disparity in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, multiple agencies of the State, County and local governments share responsibility for the effective administration of the criminal justice system within Missoula County; and

WHEREAS, other non-governmental entities also play a critical role in the justice system, including, but not limited to, victim advocacy, service groups, community treatment providers and social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, to best meet the goal of improving social justice while protecting the safety of citizens and improving the criminal justice system, it is necessary that these various allied entities coordinate their efforts and work together to evaluate and identify programs and services that will improve our justice system; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) will provide a forum for all stakeholders, leaders from the criminal justice agencies, general governments and communities in Missoula County to discuss and prioritize justice and public safety issues, to identify gaps and inconsistencies in services, to coordinate resources to address issues in the most data-guided, cost-effective and equitable ways possible, and make recommendations to elected officials and department heads to further the mutual goals of criminal justice reform; and

WHEREAS, the CJCC will draw upon expertise from local, State and federal agencies, national and community-based service agencies, victim services, community corrections programs and individuals to develop recommendations and strategies for accomplishing this mission; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the CJCC is to facilitate systemic changes across the entire justice system through a shared commitment and collaboration among agencies by evaluating and promoting continuous improvements; strengthening communication among justice agencies; eliminating redundant services; maximizing available resources; and recognizing the independent authority of elected officials within the justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners believes the CJCC should work collaboratively to enhance services, improve social justice, strengthen public safety, maximize available resources, and recommend strategies that will reduce crime and increase the public's confidence in the entire criminal justice system in Missoula County; and


WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners intends that the CJCC operate as an independent council and that its members elect their chair and establish such by-laws as they deem necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners supports the establishment of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council with a mission to improve the overall criminal justice system in Missoula County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners authorizes the expenditures of funds, as deemed necessary through the annual budgeting process, to support the activities and personnel of the CJCC.

DATED THIS 25TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018

ATTEST:


Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY


David Strohmaier, Chair


Jean Curtiss, Commissioner


Nicole Rowley, Commissioner

