

CITY COUNCIL 11.A

CITY OF LYNNWOOD CITY COUNCIL

TITLE: Public Defense Case Load Standards Update

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Julie Moore, Executive Office

SUMMARY:

Patrick Feldman, of Feldman & Lee, will update City Council on updated case load standards and the City's approach to meeting the new standards.

PRESENTER:

Patrick Feldman

ESTIMATED TIME:

20

BACKGROUND:

The City's public defense services are provided through a professional services contract. The City of Lynnwood currently contracts with Feldman & Lee. On May 19, 2025, the City Council received a briefing from Patrick Feldman, which provided an overview of the services provided by Feldman & Lee as well as an overview of the pending Supreme Court decision pertaining to case load standards.

On May 27, 2025, the City Council authorized the Mayor to sign a contract amendment with Feldman & Lee, P.S. for Indigent Defense Services to expire on December 31, 2025. This interim contract amendment gave Feldman & Lee, and the City of Lynnwood, time to better understand how the changing case load standards could impact Lynnwood.

On June 9, 2025, the Washington State Supreme Court issued an order setting new, lower caseload standards for public defenders in the state. These standards, which will be phased in over the next ten years, aim to reduce the number of cases handled annually by public defenders.

Patrick Feldman will discuss with Council a proposal to increase the number of attorneys in Lynnwood to meet the first phase of implementation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Discuss

DEPARTMENT ATTACHMENTS

Description:

[Memo to City Council - Final.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 1 - Supreme Court Order 25700-A-1644 \(interim\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2 - LYM 2025 Overall \(Updated 08.01.25\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3 - WSBA Case Weights.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4 - LYM 2026 Projections with 2025 Data \(Updated 08.01.25\).pdf](#)