

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, URGING THE GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIAL COUNCIL TO WORK TOGETHER TO REALLOCATE JUDICIAL RESOURCES TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS.

WHEREAS, the population of Riverside County and San Bernardino Counties has grown 37 percent over the last 15 years, but funded judicial positions have not increased sufficiently to meet the increased need, resulting in lengthy delays for the residents of these counties in accessing justice through their courts; and

WHEREAS, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties have two of the highest caseload ratios per judge in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice and Judicial Council, through modification of the Workload Allocation Funding Model, have taken significant initial steps to promote equal access to justice by creating a model to allocate funding more equitably to the trial courts; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2014 Judicial Needs Assessment, San Bernardino County has a need for 57 additional judges, and Riverside County a need for 51 additional judges, more than any other counties in the State and ranked first and second, respectively, in terms of need; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, SB 229, which would have funded 12 additional judgeships in California, including four (4) in San Bernardino and three (3) in Riverside County, was passed by the legislature unanimously but vetoed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, in his veto message, the Governor stated: "I am aware the need for judges in many courts is acute- Riverside and San Bernardino are two clear examples. However, before funding new positions, I intend to work with the Judicial Council to develop a more system-wide approach to balance the workload and the distribution of judgeships around the state"; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2016-17 budget proposes to reallocate up to five (5) vacant judgeships and the needed staffing and security compliments needed to support them to areas where workloads are highest.

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY RESOLVES:

That the Governor, Legislature, and Judicial Council are hereby urgently requested to work together to create and implement an acceptable methodology which allocates funded judicial positions, with funding for support staff and court security, where they are needed most-urgently in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties- so that all California residents can enjoy equal access to justice.

ADOPTED THIS 6TH DAY OF APRIL, 2016.

DAVID H. READY, City Manager

ATTEST:

JAMES THOMPSON, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS)

I, JAMES THOMPSON, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, hereby certify that Resolution No. _____ is a full, true and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs on 6th day of April, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

JAMES THOMPSON, CITY CLERK
City of Palm Springs, California