



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 4, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Public Defense Services Director Lori Lefferts' Announcement of Retirement**

Attached is a November 30, 2017 memorandum announcing the retirement of Public Defense Services (PDS) Director Lori Lefferts' retirement. Ms. Lefferts has been very successful in managing a highly complex public defense system that includes the Offices of the Public Defender; Legal Defender; Legal Advocate; Mental Health Defender; Children's Counsel; Court-Appointed Counsel; and Public Fiduciary.

The primary direction I provided to Ms. Lefferts when PDS was created was to improve overall defense outcomes and to manage costs. She has accomplished both objectives and significantly improved the professional stature of all of these necessary and vital public defense functions.

As you also may know, Assistant County Administrator Ellen Wheeler will also soon retire. I plan to retain Ms. Wheeler on a part-time contract basis to assist in completing the MacArthur Grant implementation. I have appointed former Deputy County Attorney and Human Resources Deputy Director Wendy Petersen to replace Ms. Wheeler.

I have asked Ms. Wheeler, Ms. Lefferts and Assistant County Administrator Petersen to form a search committee to fill the Public Defense Services Director position.

I would like to thank Ms. Lefferts for her dedicated and professional service to Pima County over a long and successful career.

CHH/anc

Attachment



PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

To: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Date: 11/30/2017

From: Lori J. Lefferts
PDS Director

Re: My retirement

When I started with Pima County over 30 years ago, I had no idea where the job would take me. My first assignment was in the felony trial section of the Public Defender's Office. It was 1987, and I expected my stay to be short. To my great surprise, the job turned into an incredibly fulfilling career; one in which I worked side-by-side with amazing, dedicated, caring people. All were committed to providing zealous representation to their clients, who were poor, often drug-addicted, mentally ill, and estranged from family and friends. It was hard work and long hours, for low-pay and little gratitude. I loved it. In time, I would become a trial team leader, then Chief Assistant, Public Defender, and eventually Director of Public Defense Services. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the thousands of clients who received appointed counsel during my tenure, and a privilege to work for Pima County. I greatly appreciate the opportunities you have given me to serve, and for having the trust and confidence in me to lead Pima County's Public Defense Services Department.

I am deeply grateful for the support shown to the important work of indigent defense by County Administration and the Board of Supervisors, along with the recognition and understanding of the need for a strong public defense to ensure a fair criminal justice system. I know from my colleagues around the country that this level of support makes Pima County unique. Another exceptional quality of Pima County is the ability of the criminal justice stakeholders to work together in a collegial and professional manner to create a more fair and just system. I will miss the collaboration, and the shared optimism that we *can* make the criminal justice system more humane.

My last day will be February 2, provided my successor is in place.

c: Ellen Wheeler, Assistant County Administrator