

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL FORMALLY  
PETITIONING THE UTAH LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE THE  
DISSOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY JUSTICE COURT  
CONSISTENT WITH UTAH CODE ANN. § 78A-7-123; AND RELATED  
PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Utah Code Ann. § 78A-7-123 provides that a county shall obtain legislative approval to dissolve a justice court if the caseload from that court would fall to the district court upon dissolution; and

WHEREAS, Utah Code Ann. § 78A-7-123 further provides that in order to obtain approval of the Legislature to terminate a county justice court, the governing authority of the county shall petition the Legislature to adopt a joint resolution to approve the dissolution; and

WHEREAS, Utah Code Ann. § 78A-7-123 also requires that a county shall provide notice to the Judicial Council not later than July 1 two years prior to the general session in which the county intends to seek legislative approval for the dissolution of a Class I justice court; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2022, the Salt Lake County Council approved Resolution No. 5986, which resolution provided notice to the State of Utah, the Judicial Council, and the Utah Administrative Office of the Courts of Salt Lake County's intent to dissolve the Salt Lake County Justice Court, a Class I justice court; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 5986 further provided that the County would petition the Utah Legislature during the 2025 general session for a joint resolution approving the dissolution of the Salt Lake County Justice Court, as authorized by Utah Code Ann. § 78A-7-123; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022, the Salt Lake County Council Chair issued a letter to Chief Justice Durrant, Chair of the Utah Judicial Council, which letter specifically informed the Judicial Council of the Salt Lake County Council's approval of Resolution No. 5986, and of Salt

Lake County’s intent to petition the Utah Legislature for approval to dissolve the Salt Lake County Justice Court during the 2025 general session; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County has timely complied with the notice requirements of Utah Code Ann. § 78A-7-123; and

WHEREAS, the City of Millcreek withdrew its caseload from the Salt Lake County Justice Court in 2023, greatly reducing filings at the Salt Lake County Justice Court; and

WHEREAS, the Utah Legislature recently adopted H.B. 35 (2024 general session), which legislation converted certain metro townships located in Salt Lake County that are currently being served by the Salt Lake County Justice Court to municipalities, thereby providing those newly converted municipalities with greater autonomy to determine whether and how to provide justice court services for their residents; and

WHEREAS, the Utah Legislature recently adopted H.B. 330 (2024 general session), which legislation provided legal mechanisms by which various unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County will be annexed or incorporated into municipalities by 2027; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of these legislative enactments is likely to be a substantial reduction in both the population and geographical areas of Salt Lake County that are currently being serviced by the Salt Lake County Justice Court, and a corresponding decrease in the Salt Lake County Justice Court’s caseload; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council does now determine that it is in the best interest of the County and its residents to dissolve the Salt Lake County Justice Court, and to allow its residual caseload to fall to the Utah Third District Court as may be necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Utah Legislature’s 2025 general session is scheduled to begin on January 21, 2025, and the time is now procedurally appropriate for Salt Lake County to formally

petition the Legislature to adopt a joint resolution to approve the dissolution of the Salt Lake County Justice Court;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Salt Lake County Council that:

- 1) Salt Lake County does hereby formally request that the Utah Legislature adopt a joint resolution approving the dissolution of the Salt Lake County Justice Court during its 2025 general session, in a manner consistent with Utah Code Ann. § 78-7-123; and
- 2) That the dissolution of the Salt Lake County Justice Court be allowed to be made effective as of July 1, 2026; and
- 3) That upon dissolution of the Salt Lake County Justice Court, its caseload be allowed to fall to the Utah Third District Court as may be necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Salt Lake County Clerk shall provide copies of this Resolution to President of the Utah Senate and the Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives upon its passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council's Legislative Affairs Director and the County's governmental relations contractual representatives shall undertake all other activities that are necessary and proper to petition the Utah Legislature to adopt a joint resolution approving the dissolution of the Salt Lake County Justice Court during the 2025 general session.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Stringham, Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lannie Chapman  
Salt Lake County Clerk

REVIEWED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy District Attorney      Date

Council Member Alvord voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Bradley voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Bradshaw voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Granato voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Harrison voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Stewart voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Stringham voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Theodore voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Winder Newton voting \_\_\_\_\_