



## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 21-0980 **Version:** 1 **Name:**  
**Type:** Discussion Items **Status:** Passed  
**File created:** 8/18/2021 **In control:** Council Work Session  
**On agenda:** 8/31/2021 **Final action:** 8/31/2021  
**Title:** Indigent Parental Defense Compensation - Exigent Request

**Sponsors:**

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:** 1. Staff Report, 2. Lokken Funding Request, 3. SLCo-1, 4. Budget Adjustment 22685 - ILS\_YE01 Parental Defense

| Date      | Ver. | Action By            | Action                 | Result |
|-----------|------|----------------------|------------------------|--------|
| 8/31/2021 | 1    | Council Work Session | approved and forwarded | Pass   |
| 8/31/2021 | 1    | County Council       | ratified               | Pass   |

**Requested Agenda Date:**  
8/24/2021

**Requested Agenda Title:**  
Indigent Parental Defense Compensation - Exigent Request

**Requested Agenda Item Description:** Salt Lake County contracts with Lokken & Associates, to provide court representation in Salt Lake County to indigent parents or guardians who are facing allegations of abuse/neglect or termination of parental rights before the Third District Juvenile Court and the Third District Court. Lokken has 3 attorney vacancies. With only 6 attorneys remaining, Lokken is operating at a 33% deficit in attorney workforce. Lokken needs a minimum of 9 trial attorneys to continue to provide high quality statutorily mandated services to our Salt Lake County community. Turnover rate is 180% since 2018.

Current employee salaries are well below minimum starting salaries for AG, GAL, DA or LDA: Attorney General and Guardian ad Litem starting salaries range from \$70,000 to \$80,000, and the Salt Lake County District Attorney and Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association ranges from \$70,000 to \$72,000. An attorney salary at Lokken & Associates is approximately \$50,000. Lack of competitive starting or ongoing salary halts the hiring process or forces the hiring of less than ideal candidates.

**Requested Action:** Discussion - Vote Needed

**Presenter(s) (with titles):** Karen Crompton, Director of Human Services; Lisa Lokken, President & Owner of Lokken & Associates, PC

**Time Needed:** 20 MINS

**Is this Item Time-Sensitive and/or Requesting a Time-Certain?** No

**Requesting Staff Member:** Ina Landry, Human Services Department Assistant

**Are Supporting Documents Needed for this Agenda Item Request?** Yes

Please attach supporting documentation, including presentations, to the Legistar file.

Agenda item requests must be complete and submitted via Legistar Approval Sequence to the Council Administrative & Communications Coordinator by the Wednesday before the upcoming Tuesday meeting at 3:00 PM. Please note that some offices have earlier, internal Approval Sequence deadlines.

Items without necessary supporting documentation may be withheld from consideration for the desired meeting date.