County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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January 30, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE CHANGE AUTHORIZING INCREASE TO CIVIL AND CRIMINAL GRAND JURY DAILY REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCE (ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Adopt the accompanying ordinance revising the daily fee for all grand jurors daily reimbursement allowance from twenty-five dollars ($25) to sixty dollars ($60), effective immediately.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On October 24, 2006, your Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to review and provide a recommendation on the Civil Grand Jury's October 17, 2006 request to your Board to increase the daily reimbursement allowance. We have reviewed the Grand Jury's request and support the recommended increase. The proposed increase requires an ordinance change which has been prepared by County Counsel.

The County of Los Angeles is served by two separate grand juries: the Criminal Grand Jury and the Civil Grand Jury. Each Grand Jury consists of twenty-three members and a designated number of alternates. Currently, Grand Jury members earn twenty-five dollars ($25) per-day for their service. The Board of Supervisors approved the existing Grand Jury daily reimbursement allowance of twenty-five dollars ($25) in 1974. The primary benefit of increasing the daily allowance will be to increase the potential applicant pool for the 2007-08 Civil and Criminal Grand Jury sessions. Currently, Grand Jury compensation in urban counties varies widely, from a daily allowance of fifteen dollars ($15) in the City and County of San Francisco to fifty dollars ($50) in Orange County. Given the need of the Grand Jury to attract a wider demographic of qualified and available applicants, the time elapsed since the last adjustment of the daily

reimbursement allowance, and the scope of work performed by the Grand Jury in Los Angeles County, the proposed allowance of sixty dollars ($60) is warranted.

Recent requests for adjustments to the amount or frequency of stipends for commissions, committees, and other stipend-based organizations highlight the need to review, update, or create policy that governs the submission, review, and approval process for such requests. As such, this office, in consultation with the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors and other affected departments, will undertake a systematic review of the County's stipend-based organizations to ensure that an effective process is in place to address future requests for adjustments to the amount or frequency of stipends.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended action supports the Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence through the provision of quality public service and of Organizational Effectiveness through the enhancement of organizational effectiveness across jurisdictional boundaries.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated annual net County cost for the proposed daily reimbursement allowance is $377,000. A recommendation to fund the proposed six-month increase of $188,000 for the period January 2007 through June 2007 will be made to your Board as part of the mid-year Budget Adjustment targeted for February 2007.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Government Code Section 68091 authorizes the Board of Supervisors to specify by ordinance the per-diem compensation for members of the grand jury. Unless otherwise provided by statute or County ordinance the grand juror per-diem fee, as established by California Penal Code 890, is fifteen dollars ($15) per day. In 1974 the Board of Supervisors approved the existing per-diem fee of twenty-five dollars ($25) through County ordinance. Per Penal Code Section 890.1, grand juror per-diem compensation must be paid out of the County's general fund.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

An increase in the Grand Jury daily reimbursement allowance from twenty-five dollars ($25) to sixty dollars ($60) will enhance the attractiveness of the service and increase the potential applicant pool. Furthermore, the proposed increase would compensate Grand Jury members at a level that is commensurate to the invaluable service these individuals provide to the community.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer, Clerk of the Board return two stamped copies of the letter and ordinance to the Chief Administrative Office.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:DL
JW:ML:kd

Attachment

c: County Counsel
Grand Jury

ordinance change.bl.doc

ORDINANCE NO.

An ordinance amending Title 4 - Revenue and Finance of the Los Angeles County Code, to increase the daily fee paid to grand jurors from $25.00 to $60.00.

SECTION 1. Section 4.76.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.76.020 Payment of fees to grand jurors.

The daily fee for all grand jurors while attending court is ~~$25.00~~$60.00. Grand jurors, except those appointed pursuant to Penal Code section 904.6, may receive a daily fee of ~~$25.00~~$60.00 for performing committee duty or investigative duty if not otherwise entitled to a fee for attending court.

[476010GWTCC]

ANALYSIS

This ordinance Amends Title 4 - Revenue and Finance of the Los Angeles County Code to increase the daily fee paid to grand jurors from $25.00 to $60.00.

RAYMOND J. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel

By

GORDON W. TRASK
Principal Deputy County Counsel
Law Enforcement Division

GWT:bl

11/29/06 (Requested)

12/6/06 (Revised)