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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1101
ceo.lacounty.gov

Chief Executive Officer
Fesia A. Davenport

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

March 11, 2025

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

Dear Supervisors:

**ORDINANCE CHANGE AUTHORIZING INCREASE TO
CIVIL AND CRIMINAL GRAND JURY DAILY STIPEND
(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This letter and accompanying ordinance will increase the stipend for all Grand Jurors' daily reimbursement allowance.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Adopt the accompanying ordinance amending Title 4 - Revenue and Finance, Section 4.76.020 Payment of Fees to Grand Jurors, of the Los Angeles County code, to increase the daily stipend for all Grand Jurors from sixty dollars (\$60) to eighty dollars (\$80).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Final Changes budget phase, your Board approved an increase to the Civil and Criminal Grand Jury daily stipend from sixty dollars (\$60) per day to eighty dollars (\$80) per day. The approved increase requires an ordinance change which has been prepared by County Counsel. The attached ordinance amends Title 4 - Revenue and Finance, Section 4.76.020 Payment of Fees to Grand Jurors, of the Los Angeles County code.

The County of Los Angeles ("County") is served by two separate Grand Juries: the Criminal Grand Jury and the Civil Grand Jury, with 25 and 23 members respectively. Civil Grand Jurors must apply and serve for approximately five days per week, for 52 weeks per year. Criminal Grand Jurors are summoned, or compelled, by the Court and serve for up to 30 days, sometimes longer, as convened by the District Attorney.

Currently, all Grand Jury members are provided a stipend of sixty dollars (\$60) per day for 6 hours of service, equivalent to a rate of ten dollars (\$10) per hour, if compensated at an hourly rate. Grand Jury compensation in urban counties varies widely, from a daily allowance of twenty-five dollars (\$25) in San Diego County to sixty dollars (\$60) in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The Board of Supervisors approved the existing Grand Jury daily stipend of sixty dollars (\$60) in January 2007, more than 18 years ago.

Jury service is a vital civic duty that allows citizens to directly participate in the justice system, ensuring that legal decisions are made by a representative cross-section of the community, and providing a crucial check on government power. The primary benefit of increasing the daily allowance will be to broaden and potentially, diversify, the applicant pool and to reimburse jurors for increasing costs associated with their service. The approved increase to eighty dollars (\$80) per day, an equivalent of \$13.33 per hour, will also bring the Grand Jury hourly rate closer to the current Los Angeles City minimum wage of \$17.28 per hour. The increase is warranted given the need of the Grand Jury to attract a wider demographic of qualified and available applicants, the extended length of time since the last approved increase, and to ensure the preservation of a cornerstone of a democratic society, where individuals can actively contribute to their communities.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The increase to the Grand Jury daily stipend supports the Countywide Strategic Plan North Star 3 – "Realize Tomorrow's Government Today." The increasingly dynamic and complex environment challenges our collective abilities to respond to public needs and expectations. LA County is an innovative, flexible, effective, and transparent partner focused on advancing the common good and being fiscally responsible.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The change to the Grand Jury daily stipend from sixty dollars (\$60) per day to eighty dollars per day (\$80) results in a \$189,000 increase to the Grand Jury's appropriation, funded by Net County Cost, and is included in the FY 2024-25 Final Adopted Budget.

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 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved the existing per-diem fee of sixty dollars (\$60) 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 Grand Jury daily stipend from sixty dollars (\$60) to eighty dollars (\$80) will enhance the attractiveness of the service and broaden the potential applicant pool. Furthermore, the proposed increase would compensate Grand Jury members at a level that is commensurate to the invaluable services these individuals provide to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fesia A. Davenport', with a stylized, flowing script.

FESIA A. DAVENPORT

Chief Executive Officer

FAD:JMN:MRM

EB:KK:EDA:yjf


Enclosures

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Grand Jury

ANALYSIS

This Ordinance amends Title 4 – Revenue and Finance of the Los Angeles County Code to increase the daily stipend paid to grand jurors from \$60.00 to \$80.00.

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By: 
Davit Zargaryan
Deputy County Counsel
Board Liaison Division

Requested: 6/24/2024
Revised: 9/4/2024

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Title 4 – Revenue and Finance of the Los Angeles County Code to increase the daily stipend paid to grand jurors from \$60.00 to \$80.00.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

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

4.76.020 Payment of ~~f~~Fees to ~~g~~Grand ~~j~~Jurors.

The daily fee for all grand jurors while attending court is ~~\$6~~80.00. ~~_~~Grand jurors, except those appointed pursuant to Penal Code section 904.6, may receive a daily fee of ~~\$6~~80.00 for performing committee duty or investigative duty if not otherwise entitled to a fee for attending court.

[476020DZCC]