

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director



Requested Action

Board is requested to increase the hourly reimbursement rate for legal counsel from \$100 per hour to \$140 pr hour.

Options

1. Approve the request.
2. Deny the request and maintain at current rate.
3. Establish an alternative rate.

Recommended Action

Increase the hourly rate for the legal counsel for the Juvenile Welfare Board from \$100 per hour to \$140 per hour effective April 1, 2003.

Source of JWB Funds

JWB Administrative Budget

Fiscal Impact

While utilization varies from one year to the next, JWB uses approximately 100 hours per year. Fiscal impact would be \$4000 and would be absorbed in the existing Administrative Budget.

Narrative

Mr. Smiljanich has served as JWB legal counsel since 1981. His current rate of reimbursement was last adjusted in 1994 to the current \$100. Mr. Smiljanich has requested his rate be increased to \$140 per hour to reflect the increased cost of providing these services. Like most of the other CSC legal counsels, Mr. Smiljanich's charges reflect the position that being a legal counsel to a body such as JWB is a community service. Legal services are therefore offered at a significantly reduced rate, less than half of his normal billable rates. A survey of other CSC's indicates the requested rate is consistent with the rates other legal counsels charge.