



RESOLUTION No. _____

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION APPROVING EXECUTION OF A MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT WITH COHEN DEFENSE GROUP FOR INDIGENT LEGAL DEFENSE SERVICES IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$3,028,780 FOR THE CONTRACT TERM OF MARCH 12, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States and California statutory provisions guarantee the right to legal representation for those facing criminal charges, juvenile delinquency and other matters for any person who is not financially able to retain counsel; and

WHEREAS, in the State of California, the responsibility for providing and funding legal representation for those who cannot afford counsel falls to each individual county; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada (“County”) meets this responsibility primarily through a County Public Defender’s Office, staffed by salaried public employee; and

WHEREAS, when there is a conflict of interest with the Public Defender’s Office or when they are otherwise unable to represent an indigent client, legal representation must be provided by an outside attorney; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Nevada County Superior Court (“Court”) have met to collaboratively identify the best solution to comply with the constitutional mandates to provide effective counsel, while maintaining best practices of governmental efficiency, economy and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the preferred solution identified by the County and the Court was to contract with a single firm or group of attorneys to provide “turnkey” management of defense attorneys, and to that end a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) was issued on April 7, 2023, seeking a firm or group of outside attorneys to be the single point of contact to meet conflict indigent defense needs; and

WHEREAS, a proposal was received from Cohen Defense Group (CDG), which provides similar services to Placer County; and

WHEREAS, this proposal was recommended by all participants on the County RFP review panel, which included representation from the Court and County Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, following the recommendation of the RFP review panel, the County Purchasing Agent negotiated with CDG on various terms, and the proposed contract best meets

the RFP goals and represents a well-tailored solution to a persistent problem faced by the County, the Court and those who find themselves in need of indigent defense services; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to enter into a contract with Cohen Defense Group for indigent legal defense services in the maximum amount of \$3,028,780 for the contract term of March 12, 2024, through June 30, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, hereby approves the contract in substantially the form attached with Cohen Defense Group in the amount of \$3,028,780.00 for the term of March 12, 2024 through June 30, 2027 and authorizes the County Executive Officer to execute the contract on behalf of the County of Nevada.