

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS URGING THE GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIAL COUNCIL TO WORK TOGETHER TO REALLOCATE JUDICIAL RESOURCES TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

WHEREAS, the population of Riverside County and San Bernardino Counties has grown 37 percent over the last 15 years, but funded judicial positions have not increased sufficiently to meet the increased need, resulting in lengthy delays for the residents of these counties in accessing justice through their courts; and

WHEREAS, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties have two of the highest caseload ratios per judge in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice and Judicial Council, through modification of the Workload Allocation Funding Model, have taken significant initial steps to promote equal access to justice by creating a model to allocate funding more equitably to the trial courts; and.

WHEREAS, according to the 2014 Judicial Needs Assessment, San Bernardino County has a need for 57 additional judges, and Riverside County a need for 51 additional judges, more than any other counties in the State and ranked first and second respectively, in terms of need; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, SB 229, which would have funded 12 additional judgeships in California, including 4 in San Bernardino and 3 in Riverside County, was passed by the legislature unanimously but vetoed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, in his veto message, the Governor stated: "I am aware the need for judges in many courts is acute- Riverside and San Bernardino are two clear examples. However, before funding new positions, I intend to work with the Judicial Council to develop a more system wide approach to balance the workload and the distribution of judgeships around the state"; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2016-17 budget proposes to reallocate up to 5 vacant judgeships and the needed staffing and security compliments needed to support them to areas where workloads are highest.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS HEREBY RESOLVES:

That the Governor, Legislature, and Judicial Council are hereby urgently requested to work together to create and implement an acceptable methodology which allocates funded judicial positions, with funding for support staff and court security, where they are needed most- most urgently in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties- so that all California residents can enjoy equal access to justice.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 15th day of March, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Jerryl Soriano, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Scott Matas, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Steven B. Quintanilla, City Attorney