

January 3, 2017

Madison County Board of Supervisors  
317 North Union Street  
Canton, MS 39046

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing in regards to the position of Juvenile Drug Court Prosecutor. While this is a request for salary increase for Hazel Cunningham, you will see from the information below that the salary increase will not come from county funds. This position was previously funded through grant funds until there were budget cuts at the State level. We have obtained additional grant funding to reinstate compensation for this position. When funding was previously cut, the Prosecutor continued serving the drug court without additional compensation for her time. I would add that this position is a requirement according to State law concerning drug courts.

The Juvenile Drug Court is funded by the Administrative Office of Courts ("AOC") and by the JAG grant via the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. (The AOC pays for Juvenile Drug Court salaries, benefits, treatment, drug testing and supplies, laboratory expenses, staff office expenses, training and travel and other needed expenses. The JAG grant funds only salaries and benefits.) The Juvenile Drug Court has been awarded increased funding from the JAG grant to cover this request.

After having reviewed the Juvenile Drug Court's budget and operations, and after having assessed the Juvenile Drug Court's ongoing staffing needs, it is my conclusion that the Juvenile Drug Court currently has enough funds to support an increase of salary and benefits of the Prosecutor, Hazel Cunningham. I would like to compensate her with a salary of \$10,000 for Juvenile Drug Court.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Juvenile Drug Court and for your consideration of this request. I am available to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Staci O'Neal

Madison County Court Judge  
Juvenile Drug Court Judge