SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 04-\ \0

IMPOSING AN INDIGENCY SCREENING FEE;
ADDING A NEW SECTION 2.09.051 TO THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE

WHEREAS, the cost of maintaining the Office of Public Defense continues to increase and the available funding continues to decrease; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that a portion of the costs of processing defendants through the criminal justice system be born by the persons applying for court appointed counsel; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has recommended that a $10 screening fee be imposed upon each defendant screened for indigency when they apply for court appointed counsel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

New Section. Section 1. A new section 2.09.051 is added to Chapter 2.09 Snohomish County Code to read:

2.09.051 Screening fee imposed.

(1) Each person who is screened for indigency for appointment of counsel at public expense shall be assessed a screening fee of ten dollars.

(2) The screening fee shall be paid immediately from any money possessed by that person at time of screening.

(3) If the person screened has no funds at the time of screening, the office of public defense may notify the court in the county or city where the charges related to the screening are pending and may request that the court assess the fee.

(4) No person will be denied counsel for inability to pay the screening fee.

(5) Unless a person paying a screening fee is charged on other criminal matters for which counsel at public expense has been requested, if the person is not charged, is acquitted, or if all charges are dismissed, the office of public

defense shall return the fee to the person at the last known address listed in office of public defense records.

PASSED this 22nd day of NOV ,2004.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

John McKota
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Sheila McCallister
Asst. Clerk of the Council

(✓) APPROVED
( ) VETOED
( ) EMERGENCY

DATE: 12/7/04

signature
County Executive

ATTEST:

Ann M Averill

Approved as to form only:

Gordon W. Sivley 9/29/04
Gordon W. Sivley
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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