

CHAIRPERSON
DEBBIE DE LEON

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
DALE COPEEDGE

VICE-CHAIRPERSON PRO-TEM
RANDY SCHAFFER

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
REBECCA BAHAR-COOK, CHAIR
BRIAN McGRAIN
MARC THOMAS
CAROL KOENIG
DEB NOLAN
RANDY SCHAFFER

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854 Telephone (517) 676-7200 Fax (517) 676-7264

THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M., IN THE PERSONNEL CONFERENCE ROOM (D & E), HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING.

Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of the [December 4, 2008](#) Minutes

Additions to the Agenda

Limited Public Comment

1. Ingham County Family Center - Board of Commissioners' Appointment
2. 55th District Court - Resolution Authorizing the County to Accept a Grant Award from the State Court Administrators Office/Office Highway Safety Planning ([SCAO/OHSP](#)) for the Ingham County 55th District Court Sobriety Court Program
3. Ingham County Circuit Court Family Division - Resolution for the Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division to Accept an Award of \$1,000 for the [Family Dependency](#) Treatment Program
4. Board Referral – Letter from [Legal Services of South Central Michigan](#) Requesting Reconsideration of its 2009 Funding Level and Letters of Support

Announcements

Public Comment

Adjournment

**PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC
DEVICES OR SET TO MUTE OR VIBRATE TO AVOID
DISRUPTION DURING THE MEETING**

The County of Ingham will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting for the visually impaired, for individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) working days notice to the County of Ingham. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Ingham in writing or by calling the following: Ingham County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 319, Mason, MI 48854 Phone: (517) 676-7200. A quorum of the Board of Commissioners may be in attendance at this meeting. Meeting information is also available on line at www.ingham.org

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

December 4, 2008

Minutes

Members Present: Tina Weatherwax-Grant, Todd Tennis, Rebecca Bahar-Cook, Dianne Holman, Deb Nolan, Randy Schafer and Board Chairperson Marc Thomas

Members Absent: None

Others Present: John Neilsen, Tom Shewchuk, George Strander and Maureen Winslow

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Weatherwax-Grant at 7:35 p.m. in the Personnel Conference Room of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar, Lansing.

Approval of the November 13, 2008 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. NOLAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SCHAFFER, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 13 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Additions to the Agenda

2. Substitute Resolution
- 3b. Board Referral – Email from the Women’s Commission in Support Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Requested that the Board Reconsider its 2009 Fund Level
4. Resolution to Hereby Approve the Attached On-Line Subscription Agreement for the IJIS (Integrated Justice Information System)
5. Resolution Honoring David R. Fergason

Limited Public Comment: None

4. IJIS – The Integrated Justice Information Systems Group: Sheriff, Prosecutor, 55th District, 30th Circuit and Probate Courts – Resolution to Hereby Approve the Attached On-Line Subscription Agreement for the IJIS (Integrated Justice Information System)

George Strander spoke re the proposal to authorize an app for monthly contract for court services. This committee agreed in the past with the webtec contract and it is being used. In order to use online court services

Comm. Nolan asked what the financial implications are. George said nothing. But it will encourage heavy users to apply to have a monthly contract and they will put in their credit card numbers once and will be billed on monthly basis.

Mr. Neilsen said the revenue has already been built into the 09 budget. This res prob won’t generate any more money, it allows heavy users access to the system.

Comm. Weatherwax-Grant commended the court for doing this to better serve our users.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Neilsen said the info in the subscription agreement will be changed for the board floor. The info will not be faxed until the County signs. This is a tech change.

1. Facilities Department/MIS/Family Division of Circuit Court – Resolution Authorizing a Contract with AT&T Wireless and ID Solutions to Upgrade the Security Cameras at the Ingham County Family Center for the Ingham Academy

MOVED BY COMM. SCHAFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH AT&T WIRELESS AND ID SOLUTIONS TO UPGRADE THE SECURITY CAMERAS AT THE INGHAM COUNTY FAMILY CENTER FOR THE INGHAM ACADEMY.

Ms. Winslow said do believe the additional cameras will provide more security. The facility will be more secure.

Comm. Schafer asked bout the vandalism. Ms. Winslow described the vandalism on the vans and ceilings in the facility. The current cameras did not catch these events. These events show that the cameras as valuable.

Comm. Weatherwax-Grant said this came up at the Ingham County Family Cengter Board by neighborhood rep. a desire that the parking be considered a safe place is important to the board.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Controller's Office – Substitute Resolution Authorizing Adjustments to the 2008 Ingham County Budget and Authorizing the Controller/Administrator to Make Year End Budget Adjustments

MOVED BY COMM. BAHAR-COOK, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SCHAFER, TO APPROVE THE SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2008 INGHAM COUNTY BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR TO MAKE YEAR END BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.

Mr. Neilsen said the change is the liquor tax revenue. We didn't receive as much as though would get. The amount is still more than is budgeted. Comm. Nolan asked if the 50/50 split is normal. Mr. Neilsen said it is statutory.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Board Referral
 - a. Letter from Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Requesting that the Board Reconsider its 2009 Funding Level
 - b. Email from the Women's Commission in Support Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Requested that the Board Reconsider its 2009 Fund Level

Referred to the 2009 Judiciary Committee.

Comm. Weatherwax-Grant said Mr. Neilsen suggested this matter be referred to the 09 Judiciary committee.

Mr. Neilsen said there is additional support letters in the late packet.

5. Judiciary Committee – Resolution Honoring David R. Fergason

MOVED BY COMM. NOLAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM.S CHAFER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION HONORING DAVID R. FERGASON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Announcements

Comm. Schafer thanked ktina for running this committee and she was professional. The Committee applauded for Comm. Weatherwax-Grant.

Comm. Weatherwax-Grant said this has been the most excited part of being a commissioner. This committee is to be commended for listening to the public and making well thought out decisions.

Comm. Holman said she appreciated Comm. Weatherwax-Grant company for the last six years on this committee. we have dealt with some big issues.

Public Comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Neff

RESOLUTION STAFF REVIEW

DATE: January 7, 2009

Agenda Item: Resolution Authorizing the County to Accept a Grant Award from the State Court Administrators Office/Office Highway Safety Planning (SCAO/OHSP) for the Ingham County 55th District Court Sobriety Court Program

Submitted by: 55th District Court

Committees: LE ____, JD __*, HS ____, CS ____, Finance __*

Summary of Proposed Action: This resolution would authorize the County to accept a second year continuation grant award from the State Court Administrators Office/Office Highway Safety Planning (SCAO/OHSP) for clerical support, part-time Probation Officer support, and other expenses to be utilized for the Ingham County 55th District Court Sobriety Court program.

Financial Implications: (See the attached budget summary.)

The total grant budget is \$163,928, with the grant in the amount of \$65,000 and the County match requirements are for in-kind funds (\$98,928), with no local hard cash matching funds required for the 2008/09 fiscal year.

Other Implications: The Court would use this second year of grant funds to continue the funding of two grant positions; a Deputy Clerk District Court Grant employee as well as a District Court Probation Officer to support the Sobriety Court Probation Office. Other funds from the grant would be utilized for direct program expenses.

Staff Recommendation: MM ____ JN X TL ____ TM ____ JC ____
Staff recommends approval of this resolution.

Budget Summary		G	J		K
Budget Category		MDCGP Award SCAO	Contributions		Total Cost
			Cash	In Kind	
A	Personnel	\$41,423	\$	\$70,750	112,173
B	Fringe Benefits	\$13,821	\$	\$28,178	\$41,999
C	Contractual	\$	\$	\$	\$
D	Supplies/Operating	\$8,406	\$	\$	\$8,406
E	Travel	\$1,350	\$	\$	\$1,350
F	Total Project Cost (by Funding Source)	\$65,000	\$	\$98,928	163,928

Introduced by the Judiciary and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD
FROM THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS OFFICE/OFFICE HIGHWAY
SAFETY PLANNING (SCAO/OHSP) FOR THE INGHAM COUNTY 55TH DISTRICT
COURT SOBRIETY COURT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the 55th District Court Sobriety Court Program ("Sobriety Court") has since 2004 provided quality services to the citizens of Ingham County; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2006, Sobriety Court had 34 active participants; by April 1, 2007, there were 70 participants; and by July 1, 2008 there were 95 participants; and

WHEREAS, the increased caseloads seriously threatens the level and quality of services; and

WHEREAS, the State Court Administrators Office has offered a second year of funding through a SCAO/OHSP grant for the 55th District Court Sobriety Court Program ("Sobriety Court").

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes entering into contract with SCAO/OHSP for this grant award to the Ingham County 55th District Court, Sobriety Court Program, for the time period of October 1, 2008 through September 31, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners approves the total grant budget of \$163,928, to include SCAO/OHSP grant funds in the amount of \$65,000, and Ingham County in-kind matching funds of \$98,928, with no local hard cash matching funds required to continue a Deputy Clerk and District Court Probation Officer Grant positions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller/Administrator is directed to make the necessary adjustments to the 2008/2009 55th District Court Budget and Position Allocation List.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chairperson and the County Clerk to sign any necessary contract documents that are consistent with this resolution and approved as to form by the County Attorney.

Agenda Item 3

RESOLUTION STAFF REVIEW

DATE: January 8, 2009

Agenda Item Title: Resolution for the Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division to Accept an Award of \$1,000 for the Family Dependency Treatment Program

Submitted by: Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division

Committees: LE ____, JD __*, HS__ CS ____, Finance __*

Summary of Proposed Action: This resolution would authorize the acceptance of \$1,000 from the Ingham County Bar Foundation to the Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division for use by the Family Dependency Treatment Court Program.

Financial Implications: The grant award is \$1,000.

Other Implications: The funds will be used for incentives and rewards for clients who accomplish one or more of their goals, such as staying clean, staying in compliance with court orders, continued participation in their therapy, etc.

Staff Recommendation: MM __ JN X TL __ TM__ JC __
Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

Agenda Item 3

Introduced by the Judiciary and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION FOR THE INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT/FAMILY DIVISION
TO ACCEPT AN AWARD OF \$1,000 FOR THE FAMILY DEPENDENCY
TREATMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division has implemented a Family Dependency Treatment Court; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Bar Foundation has awarded the Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division \$1,000, as a result of a grant application submitted by the Court; and

WHEREAS, the \$1,000 will be spent on incentives and rewards for clients participating in the Family Dependency Treatment Court, as outlined in the grant application.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes the acceptance of \$1,000, from the Ingham County Bar Foundation to the Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, Judges, and the staff of the Court express their appreciation to the Ingham County Bar Foundation for their support of the Family Dependency Treatment Court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners directs the Treasurer's Office to deposit the \$1,000 donation and the Controller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments in the Ingham County Circuit Court/Family Division's 2009 Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chairperson and the County Clerk to sign any necessary contract documents that are consistent with this resolution and approved as to form by the County Attorney.

LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN

"... there can be no equal justice where the kind of trial ... (one) enjoys depends on the amount of money (one) has."

- Hon. Hugo Black
Griffin v. Illinois
351 US 12 (1956)

Ingham/Clinton/Eaton/Barry/Shiawassee/Livingston Office: 3490 Belle Chase Way, Ste 50, Lansing, MI 48911-4257
(517) 394-3121 • (800) 968-0044 • Fax (517) 394-4276

November 5, 2008

AGENDA ITEM # 4

Marc Thomas, Chairman
Ingham County Commissioners
Ingham County Courthouse
341 S. Jefferson St.
Mason, MI 48854

Dear Mr. Thomas:

At Monday night's meeting, the Human Services Committee voted to fund Legal Services of South Central Michigan's Lansing office at \$20,226 – a cut of 44% from our current funding level of \$36,000. This amount is the maximum award we could receive after Resolution #08-197 was passed.

We appreciate the funding that we have received from Ingham County for many years. However, we are disappointed with the reduction of funding for 2009 and the process to determine the funding levels. Pursuant to the collective suggestion of the Human Services Committee, we are writing to ask that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners reconsider the 10% cap on funding requests created by Resolution #08-197, or in the alternative, to supplement our grant award from the County's contingency fund.

The funding recommendations do not seem to align with the county's funding priorities, primarily due to the threshold 10% limitation passed by Resolution #08-197. Most "basic need" agencies received funding increases (a total 78% increase from FY 2008); in contrast, LSSCM received 44% decrease in our funding. In addition, the funding allotment to the non-priority programs not "meeting the basic needs" ranking criteria, accounts for more than 25% of the total funding. All but one of these agencies were recommended for the same funding in 2009 that they received in 2008. By reducing our funding you are drastically cutting an important basic needs service that achieves positive outcomes, while maintaining current funding for programs that are determined not to meet funding priorities.

LSSCM has provided a full range of critical legal services to Ingham County's most vulnerable low income individuals and families for over 40 years. LSSCM provides services to clients facing legal emergencies which affect their ability to meet basic needs, including homelessness prevention through eviction and foreclosure defense, maintenance of safe and affordable housing options, increasing the availability of financial benefits, domestic violence prevention, protection from garnishment of basic family income, and other basic human needs.

Barry/Clinton/Eaton/Ingham/Livingston/Shiawassee Office: 3490 Belle Chase Way, Ste 50, Lansing, MI 48911 • (517) 394-3121 • Fax (517) 394-4276
Branch/Calhoun Office: 70 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49017 • (269) 965-3951 or (800) 688-3951 • Fax (269) 965-4874
Hillsdale/Jackson Office: 540 N Jackson St, Jackson, MI 49201 • (517) 787-6111 • Fax (517) 787-5805
Monroe/Lenawee Office: 1118 S Telegraph Rd, Ste A, Monroe, MI 48161 • (734) 241-8310 • (888) 251-1598 • Fax (734) 241-1381
Washtenaw Office: 420 N Fourth Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • (734) 665-6181 • Fax (734) 665-2974
Family Law Project: University of Michigan Law School, Hutchins Hall, 625 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 • (734) 998-9454 • Fax (734) 998-9125
Farmworker Legal Services: 34276 52nd St, PO Box 219, Bangor, MI 49013 • (269) 427-1622 • Fax (269) 427-2862
Michigan Poverty Law Program: 611 Church St, Ste 4A, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • (734) 998-6100 • Fax (734) 998-9125



Jackson County, Monroe County and South Central Michigan United Ways

<http://lsscm.org> • <http://mplp.org> • <http://farmworkerlaw.org> • <http://michiganlegalaid.org>

LSSCM has leveraged significant federal and state funding into Ingham County for nearly 20 years. State and federal funds make up over 80% of the funding supporting the Lansing office of LSSCM. This funding, in combination with local support, allows us to help over 1,500 Ingham County residents each year. In addition, we are able to assist an additional 3,500 individuals each year through our Access to Justice Center, which is a walk-in *pro se* assistance office located in the Ingham County Courthouse in downtown Lansing. We are hopeful the County will continue to support this work without a reduction in funding, and see value in providing continuing funding to a successful organization that helps so many families in Ingham County.

As requested by the Judiciary Committee at last year's funding presentation, we spoke with Commissioners and County Administrators in other counties served by the Lansing office about the potential for funding. Although one county expressed interest in supporting our office, 2009 is a difficult year to request a new line item in a county budget. The more populous counties, similar to Ingham County, (such as Washtenaw and Calhoun, which contributed \$100,000 and \$40,000 respectively to their local LSSCM offices for FY 2009) continue to support the services we provide.

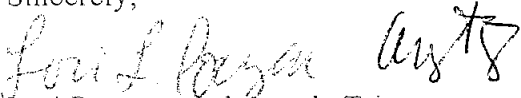
The field offices of LSSCM that have larger sources of local revenues are able to provide more services to individuals and families. There are no administration costs charged to local grants. Local funding in the offices directly correlates to additional services being provided to county residents. Because of the tremendous need and large poverty population in Ingham County, we need local sustainable revenue to support the increased demand for services.

In addition to the consequences of Resolution #08-197 on our recommended FY 2009 funding, we are also concerned about the impact of the 2010 ranking criteria #5, which states that an agency funded for fewer years will get a higher rating. This approach seems counterintuitive to the remaining ranking criteria. Nonprofits need sustainable revenue streams to achieve positive outcomes and impact the community. The residents of Ingham County would be better served by stable, quality organizations that can achieve positive outcomes and demonstrate community impact. We are hopeful that the County will reconsider criteria #5 and support funding to programs that demonstrate success and score well in the remaining criteria, regardless of the number of years the agency has received funding.

We are asking that the Commission consider an exception to the 10% cap placed by Resolution #08-197 or consider an amendment to the Resolution that lifts a cap so that LSSCM can continue the level of services needed by Ingham County residents. In the event that neither of these can be achieved this year, we request that the balance of our original funding request be funded by a grant from the County's contingency fund. Attached please find letters from community agencies and the Chief Judge of the 30th Circuit Court who support LSSCM's Lansing office in this request.

Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Lori Pourzan and Angela Tripp

Managing Attorneys

Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Lansing Office

3490 Belle Chase Way, Suite 50

Lansing, MI 48911

cc: Ingham County Board of Commissioners

Agenda Item 4

From 12/04/2008 Judiciary Committee Agenda via email

Hi Marc -

I emailed you a letter of support a few weeks ago for Legal Aid and it just now bounced back to me so I'm writing on your personal account. Apologies for that. I did want you to know that the Women's Center is in support of Legal Aid receiving more funding. We send a lot of women to Access to Justice because they aren't eligible for other legal aid services and someone from AJ will help them. We have very few attorneys in our network who will do pro bono work for our clients so having access to Legal Aid is essential to help them move on with their lives and get unentangled from some of the legal messes they find themselves in. In many cases, getting legal assistance is a basic service for some of our clients. They cannot move forward or get out of a dangerous or money draining situation without legal help.

If an official letter on paper would help, please let me know and I will get it to you.

Cindie

p.s. thanks for our funding too! It helps us keep the doors open.

Cindie Alwood, M.A., CRC, LLPC
Co-Director
Women's Center of Greater Lansing, Inc.
1710-1712 E. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912-2825
(517) 372-9163 phone (517) 372-7981 fax
www.womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org

*Ingham County Circuit Court
30th Judicial Circuit*

3rd FLOOR, COURTHOUSE
MASON, MICHIGAN 48854
TELEPHONE: (517) 483-6500

WILLIAM E. COLLETTE
Chief Circuit Judge

DAVID L. EASTERDAY
Circuit Court Administrator



SHAUNA DUNNINGS
Deputy Court Administrator /
Friend of the Court

RHONDA K. SWAYZE
Deputy Court Administrator /
General Trial Division

MAUREEN WINSLOW
Deputy Court Administrator /
Juvenile Division

November 7, 2008

Mr. Marc Thomas, Chairman
Ingham County Commissioners
Ingham County Courthouse
341 S. Jefferson St.
Mason, MI 48854

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Thomas:

As Chief Judge of the 30th Circuit Court, I would like to express my support on behalf of Legal Services of South Central Michigan as they request additional funding from the Ingham County Commission. Legal Services' Access to Justice (ATJ) Center has a strong working relationship with the 30th Circuit Court and the Friend of the Court. This office was started in March 2002 through the combined efforts of Legal Services, the Ingham County Bar Association, and the Ingham County courts.

The ATJ Center provides needed services to litigants who are unrepresented by counsel, and also provides assistance to the Family Court judges by ensuring that unrepresented litigants have all the documents they need to complete the divorce process. Court staff continually refers clients to the ATJ Center and, without these services, it would be difficult to give these people a practical referral for quick assistance. Without the ATJ Center, there would be a much bigger burden on the court and on the private bar to provide simple assistance and information to clients who cannot afford to pay for an attorney.

Marc Thomas, Chairman
Ingham County Commissioners
November 7, 2008
Page 2

In addition to the Access to Justice Center, LSSCM provides quality assistance and representation to indigent clients who appear in our courtrooms every day. These clients are well served and protected by this outstanding program. We respectfully request that the Board of Commissioners fund Legal Services to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. E. Collette", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William E. Collette
Circuit Court Judge

WEC/shc

AGENDA ITEM # 4

November 5, 2008

Marc Thomas, Chairman
Ingham County Commissioners
Ingham County Courthouse
341 S. Jefferson St.
Mason, MI 48854

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Thomas:

EVE, Inc. feels strongly about the need to provide continued financial support to Legal Services of South Central Michigan. It has been the experience of our organization to have them go the "extra mile" to help clients access needed legal services. They have a referral system that helps victims of domestic violence who have immediate or emergency legal needs. Legal Services promptly picks up the case or assigns a pro bono attorney to work with the client and so the victim and her children have the benefit of legal advice and representation.

Legal Services Access to Justice project has a strong working relationship with EVE, Inc. Personal Protection Order Office which is house next door in the Veteran's Memorial Courthouse. The office responds to Personal Protection Order clients who have immediate questions or concerns so that they leave with adequate information. The Legal Services attorney located at Access to Justice provides information to the inquires of the Personal Protection Order staff.

The leadership of Legal Services has worked to establish and maintain relationships with the domestic violence service programs in their sector. They host quarterly meetings to maintain communication, address trends and concerns, and assure that victims needs are being addressed.

EVE, Inc. clients are but one segment of Ingham County's population that benefits from the services provided by Legal Services. Our clients are well served and protected by this outstanding program. We whole respectfully request that the Board of Commissioners fund Legal Services to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

Susan Shultz
EVE, Inc.



Cristo Rey Community Center

1717 North High Street

Lansing, Michigan 48908

Phone: (517) 372-4700

FAX: (517) 372-8499

JOHN ROY CASTILLO, J.D.
Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM # 4

November 10, 2008

Mr. Marc Thomas, Chairman
Ingham County Commissioners
Ingham County Courthouse
341 S. Jefferson Street
Mason, MI 48854

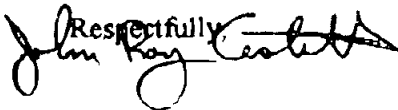
RE: Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Thomas:

Cristo Rey Community Center supports Legal Services of South Central Michigan in its request that Ingham County provide continued financial support to Legal Services of South Central Michigan. It has been the experience of our agency they provide solid and reliable help to clients needing legal services. They have a Spanish-speaking attorney on staff who performs intakes for Spanish-speaking clients outside of the regular hotline hours and who comes to Cristo Rey once a month to do outreach and meet with clients. This makes it easier for non-English speaking clients, who lack the resources for a private attorney, to get free legal assistance.

Cristo Rey clients are one segment of Ingham County's population that benefits from the services provided by Legal Services. Our clients are served by this program.

We request that the Board of Commissioners consider funding Legal Services to the fullest extent possible.

Respectfully,


John Roy Castillo
Executive Director

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