



Jackson County Missouri

Jackson County Courthouse
415 E. 12th Street, 2nd floor
Kansas City, Missouri
64106
(816)881-3242

Request for Legislative Action

File #: 25-214, Version: 0

REQUESTED MEETING DATE: Select Date

Resolution No. 21943

SPONSORS:

Sponsor: Jalen Anderson

Jalen Anderson

Date: June 16, 2025

Choose Sponsor #2.

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To be confirmed by County Counselor's Office:

STAFF CONTACT: Winifred Jamieson **PHONE:** 816-522-7273

EMAIL: Winifred.jamieson@jacksongov.org

DEPARTMENT: 1st District At-Large

TITLE: Congratulating Ruth Petsch on her retirement from the MO Public Defender

SUMMARY: Click or tap here to enter text.

WHEREAS Ruth began her service as a Missouri State Public Defender the Kansas City Trial office on January 29, 1998,

WHEREAS Ruth has served as either first or second chair in over fifty jury trials and always put her clients first often at great personal sacrifice,

WHEREAS After several years as an assistant public defender, Ruth served on the management team as training team leader,

WHEREAS On March 16, 2011, she was promoted to District Defender and becoming the FIRST WOMAN to serve in

that role at the Kansas City Trial Office,

WHEREAS Ruth managed that office for over fourteen years where she always made it a priority to attend employees' weddings and funerals of employees' family members, supporting her team in their celebrations and times of need,

WHEREAS During those fourteen years, Ruth battled for the rights of both clients and public defenders under the continuing caseload crisis saying, "It really breaks people... Especially people who don't want more people to get the shaft. They come here with the goal of helping people no one else is helping and when they can't do it, it's crushing".

WHEREAS Ruth has been described by colleagues as "an exceptional leader", "tenacious" "fearless", "a person of the highest integrity", someone who will stand up for her clients and employees regardless of the situation"

WHEREAS since joining the Public Defender, she married her husband Ryan and together they created their wonderful children Olive, Rosemary, and Patrick.

WHEREAS Ruth retired from the Missouri State Public Defender on May 30, 2025

WHEREAS Although Ruth may be retiring from the PD, after some much needed R&R she plans on working with the Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom

BE IT RESOLVED The Jackson County Legislature is grateful to Mrs. Petsch for her life of public service, dedication to the indigent, and congratulates her on her retirement from the State of Missouri Public Defender

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NO ☒

Amount	Fund	Department	Line-Item Detail

YES ☐

ACTION NEEDED: COURTESY (NO LEGAL IMPACT)

ATTACHMENTS:

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