

Graef, Betsy

From: Eileen Farley [Eileen.Farley@nwdefenders.org]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 4:39 PM
To: Burgess, Tim
Cc: Graef, Betsy
Subject: Public Defense Services Contract

Dear Council Member Burgess,

The Review Committee nominated by the King County Bar Association chose Northwest Defenders Association ("NDA") to provide public defense services as the Second Defender in Seattle Municipal Court. Following an unsuccessful appeal by one of the other bidders NDA assumed significant obligations--signed a lease, purchased equipment and, most importantly hired attorneys and staff--in order to meet the contract start date of July 1.

One of the unsuccessful bidders for the contract to be Second Defender is seeking to have a new bidding process opened for the contract to be Third Defender. I am happy to be part of a discussion of how to structure public defense to best meet the City's needs. In the short term any significant restructuring of the Second Defender's work or delay in the start of the contract will badly hurt NDA and its employees. I urge you not to take any action that would cause harm to NDA, particularly after it has taken significant steps in order to meet its commitment to the City as Second Defender.

I will follow up with your office about this next week. If you would like any additional information please let me know and I will respond quickly.

Very truly yours,
Eileen Farley