

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution No. 25- 63

Resolution to Create Yellowstone County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-1-203 of the Montana Code Annotated (2023), a board of county commissioners has the authority to create advisory committees.

WHEREAS, in September of 2023 the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners informally formed a temporary advisory committee to complete a needs assessment for the Yellowstone County Detention Facility. Based on the performance of the committee, the Board believes that it would be in the best interest of the County to formally form a permanent advisory committee to assess the criminal justice needs for the County.

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners engaged HRR, Justice Planners and A&E to complete a formal Jail Needs Assessment and the jail needs assessment reiterated the need for the formalization of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council exists in Yellowstone County but operates without formal resolution or bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is representative of the entire criminal justice system in Yellowstone County and is the appropriate body to review and recommend changes to the system; and

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners supports the formal creation of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to act as the central body to coordinate the planning of innovative corrections and criminal justice programs that reflect the County's desire to facilitate communication and collaboration between criminal justice agencies operating in Yellowstone County to promote community safety, reduce crime, while monitoring cost effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners to create a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council with a principal mission to study the County's juvenile and adult criminal justice system; identify deficiencies; raise public awareness of the unique needs of the system; coordinate efforts; and formulate policy, plans, and programs to improve the system for the benefit of victims, defendants, law enforcement and the general community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners hereby confirms the creation of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to advise the Board as to the criminal justice needs of the County; and
2. The Yellowstone Board of County Commissioners and the Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court determines that the CJCC shall initially be comprised of the following representative or their designee from each of the following entities:
 - a. Yellowstone County Attorney
 - b. Yellowstone County Sheriff
 - c. City of Billings Attorney
 - d. The Billings Chief of Police
 - e. The Laurel Chief of Police
 - f. Laurel City Judge
 - g. Laurel Criminal Prosecuting Attorney
 - h. Youth Services Center Director
 - i. Yellowstone County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
 - j. Billings Region Captain, Department of Corrections Probation & Parole
 - k. Regional Public Defender, Region 3

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- l. Billings City Administrator
 - m. Billings Municipal Court Administrator
 - n. Yellowstone County Public Health Officer
 - o. Warden, Montana Women's Prison
 - p. A District Court Judge of the 13th Judicial District, selected by the District Judges
 - q. A Yellowstone County Justice of the Peace, selected by the Justices of the Peace
 - r. A Billings Municipal Court Judge, selected by the Municipal Court judges
 - s. A Yellowstone County Commissioner, selected by the Commissioners
 - t. A representative of District 4 of the Montana Highway Patrol, selected by the Colonel of the Highway Patrol
 - u. Billings City Council Member, selected by the Council
 - v. At least two Community Members at-large, selected by the Chair of the CJCC
3. Membership shall require the affirmative vote of the CJCC for positions designated by virtue of the office they hold. Designees of the voting members may participate in general discussions but shall not vote without prior authorization from the CJCC.
 4. The CJCC shall adopt bylaws and rules governing the conduct of business, the creation of advisory groups, citizen involvement, standing committees, and *ad hoc* committees to perform the work required.
 5. This Resolution established the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and empowers the Council to adopt its own bylaws and determine its own membership once created.
 6. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is an advisory council to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council exists at the discretion of the Board. The Board may dissolve the Council at any time. The Board will annually review the need for the Council.

Passed and Adopted on the ____ day of May 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

Mark Morse, Chair

Michael J. Waters, Member

John Ostlund, Member

Attest:

Jeff Martin
Yellowstone County Clerk and Recorder