

<b>TO:</b>	Board of County Commissioners
<b>FROM:</b>	Jacqueline Sartoris, District Attorney
<b>DATE:</b>	12/31/2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Restorative Justice Account

**Requested Action:**

Approve the creation of a Special Revenue Fund to receive Restorative Justice payments from defendants and make reimbursements for Restorative Justice (RJ) sessions to nonprofit RJ practitioners.

**Background & Purpose of Request:**

Our existing RJ program is paid for entirely by the County. Other national models require payment from perpetrators of harm to offset these costs as part of taking accountability and supporting an important program. We will be charging only those who are not indigent for this program, and it will be available for all appropriate cases regardless of ability to pay.

The fee will be paid prior to the session being conducted. The fee will then be used to pay the nonprofit restorative justice practitioners who have organized and presided over the agreed-upon restorative justice sessions. This account will not result in a net increase of resources to the County, but will likely ultimately allow the program to be expanded without additional County resources, provided we succeed in having restorative justice become more cost-neutral to the County.

The Special Revenue Fund will enable us to have people who cause harm (usually they will be defendants, although some will be accused of but pre-criminal charges) pay a fee for restorative justice services as part of taking accountability for their actions. The fund will enable us to track costs and payments, and help ensure we are charging an appropriate amount to potentially cover most of the costs of this program.

**Funding Amount and Source:**

Fees collected and existing General Fund budgeted funds

**Effective Date:**

Immediately

**Attachments:**

None.