

Resolution supporting the adoption of the Justice Counts initiative to enhance and standardize justice system data collection intended to provide policymakers with timely, reliable, and relevant data and to encourage partner justice agencies to sign a Memorandum of Understanding formally adopting the Justice Counts Tier One metrics (OJPP)

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners is committed to smart justice practices that promote public safety, respect the rights of all who come into contact with it, and extend the ideals of fairness and equality regardless of race, age, sex, religion, or any other protected characteristic; and

WHEREAS, despite considerable momentum in support of justice reform efforts and attention to the importance of objective and data-driven decision-making, justice system leaders throughout Franklin County still cite multiple challenges to receiving up-to-date, relevant, and high-quality data to inform policy, allocate resources to address local trends and conditions; and advocate for reforms; and

WHEREAS, Justice Counts is an initiative led by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and over 21 partners to develop and help implement consensus-driven metrics for criminal justice agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Counts metrics are consensus-driven, grounded in common sense, and developed in partnership with a wide range of experts across the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, through the work of Justice Counts, many of the data challenges cited by local justice partners will be mitigated and opportunities to more effectively allocate resources, address barriers to smart justice, and build and sustain a culture of improvement will be realized; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County, OH has the opportunity to serve as the first local jurisdiction across the nation to adopt the Justice Counts initiative; and to encourage other state and local partners to follow suit; and

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WHEREAS, to achieve the intended benefits of the Justice Counts initiative, local leaders across the justice system are encouraged to sign on to a Memorandum of Understanding adopting the Tier One metrics; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged full implementation of the initiative will not occur overnight and that some agencies may require technical assistance, the Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs shall serve as the lead planning agency responsible for coordinating efforts and assisting partner agencies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

- 1) That the Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Justice Counts initiative and related Tier One metrics and encourages local justice leaders to sign a Memorandum of Understanding indicating their commitment to do the same; and
- 2) That the Board of Commissioners hereby assigns the Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs as the responsible agency for coordinating the Justice Counts initiative and to work with all relevant partners to provide technical assistance and support necessary to embed and standardize local data collection and justice reporting in alignment with the proposed Justice Counts Tier One metrics; and
- 3) That the Board of Commissioners hereby encourages the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board to adopt Justice Counts as one of its primary initiatives, and requests that the Criminal Justice Planning Board revise its Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan to incorporate Justice Counts; and
- 4) That by January 31, 2024, the Criminal Justice Planning Board, supported by the Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs

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develop and submit a Comprehensive Report to the Board of Commissioners detailing progress toward full adoption of the Tier One Metrics.

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CC: FC CJPB Members

Council of State Govts.

Bureau of Justice Assistance