



P.O. Box 128
Longview, WA 98632-7080
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April 23, 2008

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Proposed Court Rule CrRLJ 4.1

Dear Clerk of the Court:

The City of Longview opposes the adoption of the proposed Court Rule CrRLJ 4.1. The City opposes the rule for the following reasons:

- 1.) The rule will place a horrendous burden on the finances of the City. The City already has to make tough choices about where the City can place resources to support the criminal justice system. This is one more unfunded mandate that the City simply does not have the resources to support.
- 2.) Arraignments (in-custody and out of custody) occur at all times during the day so essentially a public defender and prosecutor will have to be available all day, every day, to meet this rule. Again, the City simply does not have the financial resources to commit to this type of requirement.
- 3.) There is no constitutional right for a defendant to have an attorney present at an arraignment. If the public defender is going to be required at an arraignment then the prosecutors will have no choice but to also appear to keep a fair representation of all parties at all stages of the criminal court process. The process already requires a substantial amount of time, so to add in unnecessary parties will slow the calendars down even more so and extend the need for more court time and thus, more expense in supporting that additional court time.
- 4.) This requirement will eliminate time-saving alternatives to a person appearing for an arraignment, such as the allowance of bail forfeitures. Under this rules all defendants will be required to appear for an arraignment. Again, our court calendars are beyond overloaded and this rule will push the calendars over the top.

The courts of limited jurisdiction in Cowlitz County are already overloaded beyond capacity and financial resources are scarce. In an already overloaded system this new

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Y RONALD R. CARPENTY
CLERK

proposed court rule is setting up an absolute explosion of our criminal justice system.
The City of Longview cannot in any way support this proposed Court Rule CrRLJ 4.1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Anagnostou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kurt Anagnostou

Mayor City of Longview and
Washington State Bar Member #17035

KAA/mh