



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 10, 2017

DATE: December 27, 2016
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: John Slaughter, Washoe County Manager
328-2000, jslaughter@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: Recommendation to appoint Laura Knight, M.D. to the position of Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner effective January 10, 2017 with an annual salary of \$260,748.80. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Recommendation to appoint Laura Knight, M.D. to the position of Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner effective January 10, 2017 with an annual salary of \$260,748.80.

Strategic Objective: Safe, secure and healthy communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

On May 24, 2016 the Board approved Employment Agreement between Ellen G. I. Clark, M. D. and the County of Washoe to serve as Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, annual salary \$248,560.00

On June 23, 2015, the Board approved an employment agreement between Ellen G.I. Clark, M.D. to serve as Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, annual salary 248,560.00.

December 17, 2013 - the Board approved a three year employment agreement with Dr. Clark, retroactive to July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

June 28, 2011 - the Board approved an employment agreement with Dr. Clark for a term of one year.

June 12, 2007 - the Board approved an employment agreement with Dr. Clark.

April 10, 2007 - introduction and first reading of an Ordinance which repealed sections of the code related to the County Coroner and added new sections creating the office of the Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner and creating the positions of Chief Medical Examiner and Assistant Medical Examiner. Second reading and adoption of the Ordinance was on April 24, 2017.

February 13, 2007 - the Board approved, in concept, the staff proposal to reorganize the Coroner's Office under a Medical Examiner/Coroner model.

BACKGROUND

Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner Dr. Ellen G.I. Clark retired from service at Washoe County effective January 4, 2017. Pursuant to WCC 35.120(1), upon the recommendation of the County Manager, a suitable and qualified person shall be appointed to serve as Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner. That same ordinance at subsection (a) requires that the Chief Medical Examiner must be a medical physician with a valid license in good standing to practice medicine in the State of Nevada.

Dr. Laura Knight is a licensed medical physician in good standing in the State of Nevada and is currently serving jointly in the position of Interim Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner given leave and transitional duties in preparation for Dr. Clark's retirement.

With the retirement of Dr. Clark, the County Manager is now recommending and requesting the Board appoint Dr. Knight to the position of Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner.

Dr. Knight brings significant experience expertise to the position serving as the Deputy Medical Examiner for Jackson County in Kansas City, Missouri from July 2007 through October 2009, as Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for Onondaga County, New York Center for Forensic Sciences from May 2013 through June 2015, and within Washoe County as Deputy Chief Medical Examiner from July 2015 to present.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact. Budget authority for the Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner is included in the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Adopted Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners appoint Laura Knight, M.D. to the position of Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner effective January 10, 2017 with an annual salary of \$260,748.80.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be to "appoint Laura Knight, M.D. to the position of Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner effective January 10, 2017 with an annual salary of \$260,748.80."