

01/12/26 (Date of First Reading)
01/26/26 (Date of Public Hearing)

ORDINANCE NO. M-4528

AN ORDINANCE repealing Vancouver Ordinance No. M-3927, adopted September 14, 2009 relating to the then-adoption of Vancouver Indigent Defense Standards; providing for approval of updated indigent standards by the City Manager or designee, and providing for an effective date.

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver, Washington (City) is a municipal corporation and first-class city of the State of Washington, organized and existing under and by virtue of the Constitution, the general laws of the State of Washington, and the Vancouver Charter; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2009, the City Council approved Ordinance No. M-3927, which adopted indigent defense standards for the provision of indigent defense services to qualifying individuals through contracts with third-party private attorneys; and

WHEREAS, based on recent Orders by the Washington Supreme Court, and the adoption of updated indigent defense standards by the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA), the City has determined it appropriate to approve revised indigent defense standards; and

WHEREAS, City Council has determined that delegating authority to the City Manager or designee to approve the revised indigent defense standards and future revisions when appropriate will allow for greater resilience in ensuring that individuals charged with misdemeanor crimes in the City will receive defense services meeting or exceeding adopted state standards; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is prepared to approve replacement Vancouver Indigent Defense Standards contemporaneous with the repeal of Vancouver Ordinance No. M-3927, including implementation of the WSBA maximum caseload standards, implementation of a new case weighting system that takes into account the complexity of cases for purposes of counting cases under new caseload standards, and that the reduction from the current maximum caseload standard will occur

over a 10-year period consistent with the Emergency Order issued by the Washington Supreme Court June 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds it necessary and in the best interests of the public that Ordinance No. M-3927 be repealed in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. Repeal of Ordinance No. M-3927. Ordinance No. M-3927, adopted September 14, 2009, relating to the then-adoption of Vancouver Indigent Defense Standards, is repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. Authority of City Manager to Approve New Indigent Defense Standards. The City Manager or designee is authorized to approve and implement new Vancouver Indigent Defense Standards, including future amendments determined necessary or appropriate by the City Manager or designee.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective five days after final passage.

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE by the Vancouver City Council: January 26, 2026.

SIGNED this 26th day of January, 2026.

DocuSigned by:
Anne McEnery-Ogle
0C89D9068EC5424...
Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

Signed by:
Anthony Glenn
1C30A0E856C240F...
Anthony Glenn, Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:
Nena Cook
A17C6F7FA2AC4D4...
Nena Cook, City Attorney

SUMMARY

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AN ORDINANCE repealing Vancouver Ordinance No. M-3927, adopted September 14, 2009 relating to the then-adoption of Vancouver Indigent Defense Standards; providing for approval of updated indigent standards by the City Manager or designee, and providing for an effective date.

The full text of this Ordinance will be mailed upon request. Contact public records staff at (360) 487-8480, citypdr@cityofvancouver.us, or via [Public Records Request -The City of Vancouver, WA](#).