



## Legislation Text

File #: [21-0138], Version: 1

### Consider Amending the Criminal Justice Debt Program and Enacting a Budget Ordinance Amendment.

**Staff:**

Megan Johnson, Crisis Unit Supervisor  
Chris Blue, Police Chief

**Department:**

Chapel Hill Police Department

**Overview:** In January 2020, Town Council passed a [resolution adopting the Town of Chapel Hill Criminal Justice Debt Program <https://chapelhill.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8027571&GUID=D69CA84E-143E-4FA7-9193-0BE215393B3A>](https://chapelhill.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8027571&GUID=D69CA84E-143E-4FA7-9193-0BE215393B3A) as a pilot program to allocate funds for justice-related debt relief to indigent members of our community. An Ad hoc Advisory Committee was formed with key stakeholders in the community and feedback was requested by Council.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Council consider a resolution to modify the Criminal justice Debt Program Plan and enact a budget ordinance amendment to adjust the General Fund budget to recognize and allocate funds from the Town of Carrboro.

**Decision Points:**

- Whether to add Carrboro to the MOU and enact a budget ordinance amendment.
- Whether to remove having a violent felony as an exclusionary criterion.

**Key Issues:**

- Carrboro would like to join the program and contribute \$7,500 to serve their residents. They have designated a staff liaison from Carrboro who will assist in processing applications from Carrboro residents.
- The program plan currently states, "Individuals convicted of violent felonies will not be eligible for the fund" which has led at least one applicant to not meet minimum program criteria.

**Fiscal Impact/Resources:** The one-year pilot initially received \$20,000 in funding and has currently used \$3,741 towards Chapel Hill residents. Carrboro will contribute \$7,500 to the program to be managed by the Town of Chapel Hill. Enactment of the attached budget ordinance amendment for the General Fund would recognize and appropriate the \$7,500 for the Criminal Justice Debt Program.

**Attachments:**

- Budget Ordinance
- Resolution
- Revised Program with Advisory Committee Recommendation(s)

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND "THE ORDINANCE CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS AND THE RAISING OF REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020" (2021-02-24/O-2)**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that the Budget Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Concerning Appropriations and the Raising of Revenue for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020" as duly adopted on June 24, 2020, be and the same is hereby amended as follows:

**ARTICLE I**

<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>				
Mayor/Council	\$ 419,020	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 419,020
Town Manager/CaPA	2,949,041	-	-	2,949,041
Human Resource Dev't	1,902,810	-	-	1,902,810
Business Management	2,330,886	-	-	2,330,886
Technology Solutions	2,386,765	-	-	2,386,765
Attorney	391,747	-	-	391,747
Planning & Sustainability	2,177,472	-	-	2,177,472
Building and Development Services	2,403,013	-	-	2,403,013
Housing and Community	834,709	-	-	834,709
Public Works	12,465,577	-	-	12,465,577
Police	13,946,421	7,500	-	13,953,921
Fire	9,700,234	-	-	9,700,234
Parks and Recreation	7,258,077	-	-	7,258,077
Library	3,715,709	-	-	3,715,709
Non-Departmental	5,526,192	-	-	5,526,192
	<u>\$68,407,673</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$68,415,173</u>

**ARTICLE II**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>				
Other Revenues	\$68,407,673	\$ -	\$ -	\$68,407,673
Town of Carrboro	-	7,500	-	7,500
	<u>\$68,407,673</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$68,415,173</u>

This the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

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**The Agenda will reflect the text below and/or the motion text will be used during the meeting.**

PRESENTER: Emma Ferriola-Bruckenstein, Criminal Justice Debt Program Advisory Committee Chair

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council consider a resolution to modify the Criminal justice Debt Program Plan and enact a budget ordinance amendment to adjust the General Fund budget to recognize and allocate funds from the Town of Carrboro.