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MEMORANDUM

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TO: ALPENA COUNTY COURTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FROM: CYNTHIA MUSZYNSKI, ALPENA COUNTY PROSECUTOR

RE: SOFTWARE

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The Prosecutor's Office is part of a statewide agency known at the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM). In the 1980's, PAAM developed software to create our warrants, used to charge people with crimes, and various other documents, track data within the office and within the state, and to communicate with the Michigan State Police Law Enforcement Network to effectively record all the charges and allow for the recording of the Defendant's convictions. Without the software to communicate these convictions with the database, everything we accomplish in court would never be recorded outside of the court's file.

Over the past several decades, the software has been able to be updated to continue to work with the ever-evolving upgrades in technology. It had come to the attention of PAAM however that the software that is currently used would not be able to be updated an infinite number of times. It is for that reason, that several years ago, PAAM formed a subcommittee of prosecutors to research an answer prior to the expiration of the software. Initially it was decided to create their own software once again but after years of trying to accomplish that, the idea was abandoned and several software companies had since developed who handled this very job for clients, specifically for prosecutor offices.

The focus of the PAAM subcommittee was then to research and narrow down the to the best three options to replace the software which we cannot function without. They have done so and soon the counties will vote on which company that PAAM will contract with to further develop the software for Michigan prosecutors.

One such company that is being considered is Karpel Solutions which is a nationwide company catering to primarily prosecutor offices across the country. After sitting through several presentations with this company and speaking with other counties that have been very happy with the product (17 counties in Michigan have already contracted with this company), I solicited Karpel to send me a quote on the startup price for moving to this

system, as well as the annual subscription fee. The prices are staggering, but once PAAM contracts with this, or another comparably priced company, the system we currently use will cease to exist and we will lose all capability of communicating with the other entities described above.

At the next Courts and Public Safety committee meeting, I hope to provide additional information on Karpel Solutions, share the quote with you, answer any questions that you have as best I can, and for those questions which I cannot answer, to then get those questions answered for you in the near future.

I currently have the verbal support from the Alpena City Police Chief, the Alpena County Sheriff, and our Michigan State Police Post Commander. I also have the support of our local IT department and possibly also the local public defender's office. I have/will be asking them for this support to be put into writing for your records.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

*C. Munguia*

