

RESOLUTION 12-1

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.44.340 of the Sangamon County Code generally requires Sangamon County employees to reside in Sangamon County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.44.340E allows the County Board to grant a twelve-month exception to the general rule in instances where there is an immediate need to fill a position requiring special skill, expertise, or knowledge in a particular discipline, and no qualified residents can be found to fill the position; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.44.010G provides: “Some offices and departments will have a need to adopt special rules or exceptions to these policies in order to address special circumstances. Such special policies may be promulgated and used with the permission of the county board.”; and

WHEREAS, in light of the nationwide scarcity of forensic pathologists, and in an effort to strengthen coroner provided services to the citizen of our community, Sangamon County has, for decades, sought to implement a regional center for forensic services to be located in Sangamon County; and

WHEREAS, Sangamon County is currently repurposing a portion of its Sangamon South building so that it may be used by the Coroner’s Office to perform autopsies and provide related services concerning: (a) persons who die in Sangamon County and whose deaths, under Illinois law, mandate the performance of autopsies; and (b) similarly situated persons who die in other counties in the region, counties who contract with Sangamon County to have those persons’ autopsies performed at Sangamon County’s facility; and

WHEREAS, for approximately three years, Sangamon County has arranged for Nathaniel Patterson, M.D., a forensic pathologist, to perform autopsies it

desires through contracts Sangamon County has entered into with Southern Illinois School of Medicine, Dr. Patterson's employer; and

WHEREAS, when Dr. Patterson moved to the area to begin working for SIU with the primary purpose of serving Sangamon County and, secondly, nearby counties, he made his home in Christian County, near Kincaid, which he has improved at significant cost over the years, and where he and his spouse continue to reside and intend to remain; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Patterson's employment with SIU will conclude on February 29, 2024, as will Sangamon County's contract with SIU to provide autopsy services; and

WHEREAS, there are less than 20 board certified forensic pathologist practicing in Illinois, and only three practice south of I-80; additionally, the Coroner is aware of no other certified forensic pathologist practicing in Illinois, other than Dr. Patterson, who is also a board certified pediatric pathologist; and

WHEREAS, because of the good working relationship between the Coroner and Dr. Patterson over years, the Coroner wishes to continue that relationship by having Dr. Patterson become an employee of Sangamon County so that Dr. Patterson can continue to perform autopsies for the County, including performing autopsies at the new Sangamon South facility immediately upon its completion; and

WHEREAS, given these facts, the Coroner desires that the County Board exercise its power to create an exception to the general residency requirements and allow Dr. Patterson to continue to reside on his current, Christian County real estate while he is employed by Sangamon County as a forensic pathologist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sangamon County Board on this 13th day of February, 2024, that the special circumstances set forth above support an exception to Sangamon County's general residency requirements

for employees and that, accordingly, an exception is hereby granted to Nathaniel Patterson, M.D., as follows: while Dr. Patterson is employed as a forensic pathologist by Sangamon County and residing on his current, Christian County real estate, he shall not be subject to Sangamon County’s general residency requirements for employees.

Approved by the _____ Finance _____ Committee _____ February 13____, _2024____
_____, Chairman

Chairman, Sangamon County Board

ATTEST:

County Clerk