



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 20

Agenda Date: May 16, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Municipal Courts

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Carla Obledo

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

The Reappointment and Appointment of Full-time and Part-Time Municipal Court Judges

SUMMARY:

This ordinance reappoints ten (10) full-time Municipal Court Judges and nine (9) part-time Municipal Court Judges and appoints two (2) new Municipal Court part-time judges.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Municipal Court Judges are appointed by City Council every two years (even-numbered) years with an effective date of May 1st. Municipal Court Judges must: (1) be a U.S. citizen; (2) a Texas resident; (3) a licensed attorney in good standing; (4) have practiced law in Texas for a minimum of two years; and (5) a resident of the City of San Antonio for at least three years immediately preceding appointment. The Municipal Court Advisory Committee undertook the appointment process in mid-February, 2024 and met to consider the applications and make recommendations for appointments. The Municipal Court Advisory Committee met in person on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 and held interviews. The committee took action to reappoint all full-time judges. On Tuesday, May 7, 2024 the Municipal Court Advisory Committee met in person to conduct the remaining part-time judge interviews, and took action to reappoint all current part-time judges. In

addition, the committee appointed two (2) new part-time judges.

The recommendation of the Municipal Court Advisory Committee is to reappoint the current full-time judges: Kenneth M. Bell, Melanie A. Castillo, Clarissa L.Chavarria, Yvonne Gomez, Lisa M. Gonzales, Daniel Guerrero, Daniel Kassahn, Margarita Pol, Michael A. Ramos, Peter A. Zamora; and to re-appoint current part-time judges: Anthony Arriaga, Lauren Lefton, Veronica I. Legarreta, Elizabeth Martinez, Cheryl Mendoza, Frank D. Sandoval, Alfredo M. Tavera, Mario Vega and Aida Ann Zaragoza; and to appoint new part-time judges James Abanka and Rolando Arguelles.

ISSUE:

The current San Antonio Municipal Court judges are serving in holdover status, as the term expired April 30, 2024.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative would require qualification of new applicants, leaving current judges in holdover status until new appointments can be made. This will not change the term of office. Appointments are made for the remainder of unexpired terms, which begin May 1, in even-numbered year and ending on April 30th, two years later.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance reappoints and appoints ten (10) full-time judges and eleven (11) part-time judges for the remainder of a two-year term, expiring April 30, 2026. Judicial salaries and compensation are part of Municipal Court's General Fund, FY24 adopted budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Municipal Court Advisory Committee recommends the reappointment of ten (10) full-time judges, the re-appointment of nine (9) part-time judges and the appointment of two (2) new part-time judges.