

# City of San Antonio



## Minutes

### Municipal Court Advisory Committee

**Chair:** Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2

**Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6**

**Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

**1:00 PM**

**City Hall**

The Municipal Court Advisory Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 1:06 PM. Executive Assistant SueAnn Reyes took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

**Members Present:** Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Chair*  
Teri Castillo, *Member*  
Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*  
Marina Alderete Gavito, *Member*  
Manny Pelaez, *Member*

**Members Absent:** None

#### Approval of Minutes

1. **Approval of the minutes from the Municipal Court Advisory Board Subcommittee meeting on November 14, 2023.**

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 Municipal Court Advisory Board Subcommittee meeting. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez

#### Public Comments

#### Briefing and Possible Action on the following items

2. **Second part of an overview of the Municipal Court.** [Andy Segovia, City Attorney]

City Attorney Andy Segovia introduced Municipal Court Presiding Judge Carla Obledo. Judge Obledo introduced Judge Kenneth Bell, Judge Clarissa Chavarria, Judge Daniel Guerrero, Judge Margarita Pol and Judge Peter Zamora who each gave an overview of their Municipal Court

responsibilities

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if there had been trending issues with school attendance and truancy. Judge Clarissa Chavarria stated that during the COVID Pandemic, mediations were not taking place and there was a tendency for more absences due to fear and mental health problems. Judge Chavarria noted that the trend seemed to be more online school attendance. She stated that the court did provide Case Managers with online school information as needed.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if there was a strategy in place on how to deal with the Sovereign Movement. Judge Chavarria stated that they did not see many issues with Sovereign individuals in the juvenile section. Judge Obledo stated that there was not a strategy in place but that the court ensured that judges had all the resources available regarding the sovereignty movement available to them.

Councilmember Castillo asked what the trend was beyond truancy. Judge Chavarria stated that the court has seen an increase in vaping cases with traffic violations.

Judge Obledo stated that the juvenile court had really great dedicated Juvenile Case Managers who provided trainings, parenting classes, etc. which were available on weekends and nights.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito asked how domestic violence cases were considered low level. Judge Poll stated they were considered Class C assault charges with no bodily injury but rather involving offensive touching or a threat. She added that the goal was to intervene before the violence escalated.

Councilmember Castillo asked for examples of code violations. Judge Zamora stated the more frequent violations were for short term rental permits.

Councilmember Pelaez asked about City Code violations cited by the San Antonio Police Department at convenience stores. Judge Zamora stated that the court was still seeing violations for adult oriented type of businesses.

Chair McKee-Rodriguez suggested going over different scenarios and different paths and taking into consideration the views of different judges. Chair McKee-Rodriguez thanked the judges and noted that he looked forward to setting clear and reasonable expectation for judges and getting to know them.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

**Approved**

*Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Chair*

**Respectfully Submitted**

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*Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk*