



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 25

Agenda Date: June 9, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Municipal Courts

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Carla Obledo

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Municipal Court Full-Time and Part-Time Judges' Reappointment and Appointments

SUMMARY:

This ordinance reappoints and appoints ten (10) full-time and nine (9) part-time San Antonio Municipal Court Judges to the remainder of a two-year term, expiring April 30, 2024. Duties include the performance of magistrate duties in a 24/7 setting, as assigned by the Presiding Judge.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Municipal Court Judges are appointed by City Council every two years (even-numbered) years with an effective date of May 1. 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's sub-committee undertook the appointment process in late April, 2022, and met to consider the applications and make recommendations for appointments. The sub-committee of the Municipal Court Advisory Committee met in person on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 and started the interview process. On Friday, May 6, 2022, the sub-committee of the Municipal Advisory Committee re-convened in person to conduct remaining

interviews, and took action to re-appoint all current full-time judges and all current part-time judges; in addition, they appointed two new full-time judges and five new part-time judges. The sub-committee's recommendation is to reappoint the following full-time judges: Melanie Castillo, Clarissa Chavarria, Lisa M. Gonzales, Daniel Guerrero, James Daniel Kassahn, Margarita Pol, Michael Ramos and Peter Andrew Zamora; to appoint new full-time judges: Kenneth M. Bell and Yvonne M. Gomez; and to re-appoint part-time judges Lauren Lefton, Frank D. Sandoval, Alfredo Macias Tavera, Aida Ann Zaragoza; and to appoint new part-time judges: Anthony Arriaga, Cheryl Mendoza, Mario Vega, Elizabeth R. Martinez and Veronica I. Legarreta.

ISSUE:

The current San Antonio Municipal Court judges are serving in holdover status, as the term expired on April 30, 2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance reappoints and appoints ten (10) full-time judges and nine (9) part-time judges to the remainder of a two-year term, expiring April 30, 2024. Duties include the performance of magistrate duties, as assigned by the Presiding Judge. Judicial salaries and compensation are part of Municipal Court's General Fund, FY2022 Adopted Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Municipal Court Advisory Committee recommends the re-appointment and appointment of ten (10) full-time judge and nine (9) part-time judges.