



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance - City Council Meeting of October 11, 2022
Second Reading Ordinance – City Council Meeting of October 18, 2022

DATE: October 2, 2022
TO: Mayor & Council
FROM: Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary
RebeccaH@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3105

Appointment of Part-Time Municipal Court Judges

CAPTION:

Ordinance appointing Douglas K. DeFratus, William Holt Feemster, Mariana Garza, and Mario A. Olivarez as part-time judges of the Municipal Court of Record in the City of Corpus Christi; determining salary; providing a term of office; and declaring an effective date.

SUMMARY:

Municipal Court judges are appointed by the City Council, subject to the recommendation of the Municipal Court Committee, which consists of four City Council members: Chairman John Martinez, Ben Molina, Roland Barrera, and Michael Hunter. There are currently seven part-time judge positions in the Municipal Court. One of the positions is vacant due to the promotion of Municipal Court Judge David Walsh to a full-time position in April 2022. The FY 2023 budget approved the funding of three additional part-time judges. The Municipal Court Committee interviewed candidates on September 29, 2022. The committee recommended the appointment of Douglas K. DeFratus, William Holt Feemster, Mariana Garza, and Mario A. Olivarez as part-time judges of the Municipal Court.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Per Sec. 29-54 of the city code, the Municipal Court Committee will provide oversight responsibilities for municipal court judicial operations and monitoring judges (appointment, annual review and salary oversight). The municipal court committee consists of four (4) council members appointed by the mayor at the beginning of each council term. The mayor appoints one (1) of the council members as the chairperson. In January 2021, Mayor Guajardo appointed Council Members John Martinez (Chairman), Roland Barrera, Michael Hunter, and Ben Molina to the committee. Municipal Court judges serve two-year terms that are concurrent with City Council terms of office.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose to amend the ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the part-time judges' salary is included in the FY 2023 Municipal Court Budget.

Funding Detail:

Fund:

Organization/Activity:

Mission Element:

Project # **(CIP Only)**:

Account:

RECOMMENDATION:

The Municipal Court Committee recommends approval of the ordinance as presented.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance