



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance - City Council Meeting of March 21, 2023
Second Reading Ordinance – City Council Meeting of March 28, 2023

DATE: March 13, 2023

TO: Mayor & Council

FROM: Council Member Roland Barrera, Chairman
Municipal Court Committee

Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary
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Appointment of Municipal Court Judges

CAPTION:

Ordinance appointing Jacqueline Del Llano Chapa as Presiding Judge, Mike Alaniz as Division 1 Judge, Julianna Siracusa Rivera as Division 2 Judge, David Walsh as Division 3 Judge, William Gregory “Bill” Bonilla as Division 4 Judge, and George Picha as Division 5 Judge of the Municipal Court; appointing Christopher E. Matt as part-time judge #1, Douglas K. DeFratus as part-time judge #2, William Holt Feemster as part-time judge #3, Mariana Garza as part-time judge #4, Mario A. Olivarez as part-time judge #5, Kali Guttman as part-time judge #6, Robert Reyna as part-time judge #7, and Michael White as part-time judge #8 of the Municipal Court; determining salary; providing a two year term of office; and declaring an effective date.

SUMMARY:

Municipal Court judges are appointed by the City Council, per the recommendation of the Municipal Court Committee, which consists of four City Council members: Chairman Roland Barrera, Sylvia Campos, Michael Hunter, and Mike Pusley. The Municipal Court Committee conducted interviews on March 8, 2023. The committee recommended the reappointments of Presiding Judge Jacqueline Del Llano Chapa, full-time Judges Mike Alaniz; Julianna Siracusa Rivera, and David Walsh, and part-time Judges Christopher Matt, Douglas DeFratus, William Holt Feemster, Mariana Garza, Mario Olivarez and Kali Guttman. The committee recommended the new appointments of full-time Judges Bill Bonilla and George Picha and part-time judges Robert Reyna and Michael White.

Additionally, the Human Resources department conducted a market study on municipal court judge salaries. The study results showed that the salaries for the presiding judge and full-time judges were 26-31% below market. Part-time judge salaries were approximately 5% below market. The committee recommended the approval of market adjustments to the salaries of all judges. The increased salary expenditures would total \$110,789.68 for the remainder of FY 2023 with the new pay starting on the pay period beginning April 10, 2023. This increase is being recommended to be appropriated from the unreserved fund balance in the General Fund and will be included in the mid-year budget amendment that will be presented to the City Council on March 28, 2023 for the first reading and on April 11, 2023 for the second reading.

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. Municipal Court judges serve two-year terms.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose to amend the ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Salaries for the Municipal Court judges have been budgeted in the General Fund. The fiscal impact for the remainder of FY 2023 is estimated to be \$611,139.17.

The market study results would increase salary expenditures for the judges by \$110,789.68 for the remainder of the fiscal year. This increase is being recommended to be appropriated from the unreserved fund balance in the General Fund as part of the mid-year budget amendment scheduled for the March 28, 2023 City Council meeting.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1020 General Fund
Organization/Activity: 10400 Municipal Court Judicial
Department: 22 Court
Project # (CIP Only):
Account: 510100 Salaries
Amount: \$509,206.33

Fund: 1020 General Fund
Organization/Activity: 10400 Municipal Court Judicial
Department: 22 Court
Project # (CIP Only):
Account: 511000 Retirement
Amount: \$101,932.84

RECOMMENDATION:

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

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Statistical Information 2022
Ordinance