

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/10/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0196

LOG NAME: 38JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS 2026

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt Ordinance Reappointing Nine Municipal Court Judges, Appointing One New Municipal Court Judge, Designating a Chief Judge and Designating a Deputy Chief Judge for a Two-Year Term Commencing April 1, 2026, and Ending March 31, 2028 and Approve Pay Rate Adjustments

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Reappoint Andrew T. Bradshaw, Raquel D. Brown, Laura E. Ganoza, Simon C. Gonzalez, Joseph F. Henderson, Melanie A. Houston, Thaddeus A. Iwuji, Claudia A. Martinez, and Patricia L. Summers as Municipal Judges for a two-year term commencing April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2028, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state law;
 2. Appoint Karen B. Williams as a Municipal Judge for a two-year term commencing April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2028, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state law;
 3. Designate Simon C. Gonzalez as Chief Judge;
 4. Designate Andrew T. Bradshaw as Deputy Chief Judge; and
 5. Approve Pay Rate Adjustments.
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DISCUSSION:

Appointment of Municipal Court Judges, Designation of Chief Judge, and Designation of Deputy Chief Judge:

Chapter 30 of the Texas Government Code (the Uniform Municipal Courts of Record Act) sets out the requirements for appointment of judges and the presiding judge for Municipal Courts of Record. Section 30.00006(b) of the Texas Government Code requires the governing body of a municipality to appoint its Municipal Judges by ordinance. Section 30.00006(h) of the Texas Government Code requires the City Council to set the salary for the Municipal Judges. Section 30.00007 of the Texas Government Code requires the governing body of the municipality to designate a presiding judge if there is more than one Municipal Judge in the municipality. Section 10-3 of the City Code requires the City Council to designate a Chief Judge with the duties of a presiding judge. The City Council is also authorized to designate a Deputy Chief Judge.

Currently there are 10 Judicial Places.

On Tuesday, March 3, 2026, the Legislative Affairs Committee met to discuss the judicial candidates reviewed for recommended appointment and reappointment.

The Legislative Affairs Committee is recommending to the City Council that Andrew T. Bradshaw, Raquel D. Brown, Laura E. Ganoza, Simon C. Gonzalez, Joseph F. Henderson, Melanie A. Houston, Thaddeus A. Iwuji, Claudia A. Martinez, and Patricia L. Summers be reappointed as Municipal Judges for a two-year term commencing April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2028, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state and local law and; Karen B. Williams be appointed as a Municipal Judge for a two-year term commencing April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2028, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state and local law and; the designation of Simon C. Gonzalez as Chief Judge and Andrew T. Bradshaw as Deputy Chief Judge.

On the same date, the Legislative Affairs Committee voted to increase salaries for the Municipal Judges, Deputy Chief Municipal Judge, and the Chief Municipal Judge positions for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY2027. The salaries were recommended by the Human Resources Classification and Compensation division. The pay rate adjustments for the Municipal Judges, Deputy Chief Municipal Judge, and the Chief Municipal Judge are effective the first full pay period in April of each fiscal year, as follows:

1. An hourly rate of \$67.20 for FY2026 and an hourly rate of \$69.22 in FY2027 for Municipal Judges Laura E. Ganoza, Joseph F. Henderson and Karen B. Williams
2. An hourly rate of \$70.56 for FY2026 and an hourly rate of \$71.99 in FY2027 for Municipal Judges Melanie A. Houston and Thaddeus A. Iwuji
3. An hourly rate of \$74.09 for FY2026 and an hourly rate of \$74.87 in FY2027 for Municipal Judges Raquel D. Brown and Patricia L. Summers
4. An hourly rate of \$77.79 for FY2026 and an hourly rate of \$77.87 in FY2027 for Municipal Judge Claudia A. Martinez
5. An hourly rate of \$85.00 for FY2026 and an hourly rate of \$88.40 in FY2027 for Deputy Chief Judge Andrew T. Bradshaw
6. An hourly rate of \$95.00 for FY2026 and an hourly rate of \$98.80 in FY2027 for Chief Judge Simon C. Gonzalez

Funding is budgeted in the Regular Employee Salaries account within the General Fund for the Municipal Court Department.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the recommendations, funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Municipal Court Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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