

City of Fort Worth, Texas

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 04/22/25 M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0330

LOG NAME: 38SUBSTITUTE JUDGE APPOINTMENT 2025

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt Ordinance Appointing the Substitute Municipal Judges for a Two-Year Term Commencing April 1, 2025, and Ending March 31, 2027 and Approve Pay Rate Adjustments

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council appoint Kim Marie Catalano, Cindy Fitch, Faye R. Harden, Joseph Henderson, Leslie Lenckus, Terry Reeves, Joann Reyes, and Karen Boyd Williams as Substitute Municipal Judges for a two-year term commencing April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2027, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state law, and approve pay rate adjustments.

DISCUSSION:

Appointment of Substitute Municipal Judges

Chapter 30 of the Texas Government Code (the Uniform Municipal Courts of Record Act) sets out the requirements for appointment of judges for municipal courts of record. Section 30.00008 of the Texas Government Code (the Uniform Municipal Courts of Record Act) states that the governing body of a municipality may appoint one or more qualified persons to be available to serve for a municipal judge who is temporarily absent due to illness, family death, continuing legal or judicial education programs or any other reason. The presiding judge shall select one of the qualified persons appointed by the governing body to serve during the absence of a municipal judge. The substitute judge, while serving as a municipal judge, has all the powers and shall discharge all the duties of a municipal judge.

Currently, there are 8 Substitute Judicial Positions with no vacancies.

On March 4, 2025, the Legislative Affairs Committee approved the appointment recommendation of Kim Marie Catalano, Cindy Fitch, Faye R. Harden, Joseph Henderson, Leslie Lenckus, Terry Reeves, Joann Reyes, and Karen Boyd Williams as Substitute Municipal Judges for a two-year term commencing April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2027.

If approved by Mayor and Council, the individuals listed above will be appointed as Substitute Municipal Judges for a two-year term commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2027.

Compensation of Substitute Municipal Judges

Compensation for Substitute Municipal Judges is being increased from \$50.00 per hour worked to \$60.00 per hour worked.

Funding is budgeted in the Temporary Employee 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 recommendation, 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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