

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 10/21/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0976

LOG NAME: 38MUNICIPAL JUDGE APPOINTMENT2025

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt the Ordinance Appointing Joseph F. Henderson as Municipal Judge for the Remainder of a Two-Year Term, Commencing October 18, 2025 and Ending March 31, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Appoint Joseph F. Henderson as Municipal Court Judge for an unexpired term commencing October 18, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state law; and
 2. Set the salary for said Municipal Court Judge as \$127,899.20 per year.
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DISCUSSION:

Appointment of Municipal Court Judges

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 court judges by ordinance.

Currently there are 10 Judicial Places. One judicial vacancy was created by the retirement of Judge Neel McDonald.

On October 14th, 2025 Chief Judge Gonzalez received approval from the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee to recommend the appointment of Joseph F. Henderson as Municipal Court Judge for an unexpired term commencing October 18, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026 to the Mayor and Members of the City Council on October 21, 2025.

On October 14th, 2025, Chief Judge Gonzalez presented an Informal Report to the Mayor and Members of the City Council concerning the Judicial Appointment recommendation of Joseph F. Henderson as Municipal Court Judge for an unexpired term commencing October 18, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026.

Chief Judge Gonzalez is recommending to Mayor and Members of the City Council that Joseph F. Henderson be appointed as a municipal court judge for an unexpired term commencing on October 18, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026. Therefore, the following individual is now appointed as a municipal court judge in the following place for an unexpired term commencing October 18, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state and local law:

Municipal Court Judge Place 8: Joseph F. Henderson.

Appointment to a place does not mean appointment to a specific court or division. Assignment to a court remains within the authority of the Chief Judge as authorized by Section 10-3 of the City Code.

Pay Adjustments for Municipal Court Judges

Section 30.00006(h) of the Government Code requires the City Council to set the salary for a Municipal Court Judge upon appointment. Therefore, the salary for the Municipal Court Judge is as follows:

1. An annual salary of \$127,899.20 for Municipal Court Judge Joseph F. Henderson.

The salary of the Municipal Court Judge may be increased in the future if the increase is adopted by the City Council as part of the Budget Ordinance.

Funding is budgeted in the Regular Employee Salaries account within the General Fund for the Municipal Courts 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 funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the General Fund to support the approval of the above recommendations. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Municipal Court Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: William Johnson 5806

Originating Business Unit Head: William Rumuly 7461

Additional Information Contact: William Rumuly 7461