

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 12/12/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-1068

LOG NAME: 38MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES PAY RATE ADJUSTMENT FY24

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Pay Rate Adjustments for Eight Municipal Court Judges and Deputy Chief Judge Effective November 18, 2023 and Adopt Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council ratify pay rate adjustments for eight Municipal Court Judges and Deputy Chief Judge to be effective on November 18, 2023 and adopt the attached ordinance.

DISCUSSION:

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.

The Human Resources Classification and Compensation division recommend increases in the salaries for the Deputy Chief Municipal Judge, and Municipal Judges by 11% in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 effective November 18, 2023. The pay rate adjustments for the Deputy Chief Judge and eight Municipal Judges are as follows:

1. An hourly rate of \$58.28 for FY2024 for Municipal Judge Carla Kelman
2. An hourly rate of \$62.83 for FY2024 for Municipal Judges Melanie Houston and Thaddeus Iwuji
3. An hourly rate of \$70.97 for FY2024 for Municipal Judges Patricia Summers and Raquel Brown
4. An hourly rate of \$74.01 in FY2024 for Municipal Judges R. Neel McDonald, Andrew Bradshaw and Claudia Martinez
5. An hourly rate of \$76.71 in FY2024 for Deputy Chief Municipal Judge Simon Gonzalez

Funding is budgeted in the Regular Employee Salaries Account of the Municipal Court Judicial Department's General Fund. The amount paid is based on hourly rate and hours worked. These pay rate adjustments will increase salaries and benefits expenses in the Municipal Court budget of the General Fund. The FY2024 differences are \$112,659 in Salaries, \$28,660 in Retirement, and \$1,634 in FICA totaling \$142,952. The department expects to be able to absorb the additional costs without a budget increase, and will seek to implement discretionary savings as necessary.

This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

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 recommendation and increases in pay rates. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Municipal Court Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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Expedited