

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 04/07/20

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 20-0185

LOG NAME: 38 JAMES. D. RODGERS

SUBJECT

Adopt Ordinance Appointing the Municipal Judges, Chief Judge and Deputy Chief Judge for Two-Year Terms Commencing April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2022 (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Appoint Charles T. Atkinson, Andrew T. Bradshaw, Raquel D. Brown, Ann Y. Collins, Simon C. Gonzalez, Melanie A. Houston, Thaddeus A. Iwuji, Claudia A. Martinez, R. Neel McDonald, James D. Rodgers, and Patricia L. Summers as Municipal Judges for two-year terms commencing April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2022, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state law; and
 2. Designate James D. Rodgers as Chief Judge and Simon C. Gonzalez as Deputy Chief Judge.
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DISCUSSION:

Appointment of Municipal Court Judges, Chief Judge and the 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 30.00007 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.

On February 18, 2020, the Ad Hoc Municipal Courts Advisory Committee (Courts Committee) voted to recommend to the City Council that Charles T. Atkinson, Andrew T. Bradshaw, Raquel D. Brown, Ann Y. Collins, Simon C. Gonzalez, Melanie A. Houston, Thaddeus A. Iwuji, Claudia A. Martinez, R. Neel McDonald, James D. Rodgers, and Patricia L. Summers be reappointed as Municipal Judges for two-year terms commencing April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2022.

On the same date, the Courts Committee voted to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of James D. Rodgers as Chief Judge and Simon C. Gonzalez as Deputy Chief Judge for two-year terms commencing April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2022. Therefore, the following individuals are now appointed as Municipal Judges in the following places for a two-year term commencing April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2022, or until a successor is qualified and appointed in accordance with state and local law:

Municipal Court Judge Place 1: James D. Rodgers

Municipal Court Judge Place 2: Simon C. Gonzalez

Municipal Court Judge Place 3: Patricia L. Summers

Municipal Court Judge Place 4: Andrew T. Bradshaw

Municipal Court Judge Place 5: Raquel D. Brown

Municipal Court Judge Place 6: Melanie A. Houston

Municipal Court Judge Place 7: Claudia A. Martinez

Municipal Court Judge Place 8: R. Neel McDonald

Municipal Court Judge Place 9: Ann Y. Collins

Municipal Court Judge Place 10: Charles T. Atkinson

Municipal Court Judge Place 11: Thaddeus A. Iwuji

There is no change in the compensation for the judges at this time.

CMO supports the recommendation of the Court Committee.

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 approval of these recommendations will have no material effect on City funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Valerie Washington 6199

Originating Business Unit Head: William Rumuly 6736

Additional Information Contact: James D. Rodgers 6717