

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 11/08/22

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 22-0883

**LOG NAME:** 38MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES PAY RATE ADJUSTMENT FY23

**SUBJECT**

(ALL) Ratify Pay Rate Adjustments for Seven Municipal Court Judges, Deputy Chief Judge and Chief Judge Effective April 1, 2022 and October 1, 2022, and Adopt Ordinance

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council ratify pay rate adjustments for seven Municipal Court Judges, Deputy Chief Judge and Chief Judge to be effective on April 1, 2022 and October 1, 2022, and adopt the attached ordinance. .

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**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.

On February 22, 2022, the Legislative Affairs Committee voted to recommend increases in the salaries for the Municipal Judges by 8%, Deputy Chief Municipal Judge by 8% and the Chief Municipal Judge position by 4% in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 effective April 1, 2022. Additionally, they voted to recommend an increase in the salaries by an additional 4% in FY2023 effective October 1, 2022. These recommendations were detailed and adopted by City Council in Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) 22-0185, but the recommendations were not contained in the ordinance that accompanied M&C 22-0185. The attached ordinance will codify the pay rate adjustments for the Chief Judge, Deputy Chief Judge and 7 Municipal Judges as follows:

1. An hourly rate of \$54.42 for FY2022 and an hourly rate of \$56.60 in FY2023 for Municipal Judges Melanie Houston and Thaddeus Iwuji
2. An hourly rate of \$61.48 for FY2022 and an hourly rate of \$63.94 in FY2023 for Municipal Judges Patricia Summers and Raquel Brown
3. An hourly rate of \$64.12 for FY2022 and an hourly rate of \$66.68 in FY2023 for Municipal Judges R. Neel McDonald, Andrew Bradshaw and Claudia Martinez
4. An hourly rate of \$66.45 for FY2022 and an hourly rate of \$69.11 in FY2023 for Deputy Chief Municipal Judge Simon Gonzalez
5. An hourly rate of \$74.42 for FY2022 and an hourly rate of \$77.40 in FY2023 for Chief Municipal Judge James D. Rodgers

Funding is budgeted in the Regular Employee Salaries Account of the Municipal Court Judicial Department's General Fund. The available balance for FY2023 is \$1,370,572.00. The amount paid is based on hourly rate and hours worked.

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.

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**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.

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

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