

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 9, 2020

TO City Council Public Safety Committee/Ad Hoc Judicial Nominating Committee

SUBJECT **Appointment of Municipal Judges**

As you may be aware, municipal court judges are appointed every two years through a process that is conducted by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC). The process includes reviewing court operations, accepting applications, conducting interviews, and recommending judges to the City Council Ad Hoc Judicial Nominating Committee (Public Safety).

On April 13, 2020, the JNC was scheduled to brief the Public Safety Committee on applications that were received and candidates that were selected to interview for the Municipal Court of Record full-time and associate (part-time) municipal judge positions. The job announcements were posted on February 10, 2020, and Candidates were scheduled to be interviewed between March 23, 2020 through March 27, 2020. Following interviews, the JNC recommendations were scheduled to be submitted via memorandum to the City Council Ad Hoc JNC on March 30, 2020.

While the process was underway, and the JNC was fully prepared to present their recommendations to the Public Safety Committee, the process was suspended due to COVID-19 and regulations restricting in person meetings. Eventually virtual meetings were allowed again, but interviews were not immediately rescheduled. To complicate the process further, the Chair of the JNC also resigned during the process. Ultimately, interviews were not conducted in sufficient time to make a formal recommendation to the City Council Ad Hoc JNC and City Council by the September deadline.

As a result, all currently serving municipal judges whose terms expired in May 2020 were automatically reappointed pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 29.005 and their new terms will now end on May 31, 2022. Also, due to resignations, there are six associate (part-time) municipal judge positions open and available for appointment. Staff will work with the JNC to determine how they would like to proceed on these specific appointments.

Please feel free to contact me at 214-670-3316, or [jon.fortune@dallascityhall.com](mailto:jon.fortune@dallascityhall.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Fortune".

Jon Fortune  
Assistant City Manager

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c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors