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City of Dallas

*1500 Marilla Street Council
Briefing Room, 6ES
Dallas, Texas 75201*



Judicial Nominating Commission

February 13, 2025

5:30 PM

The Judicial Nominating Commission meeting will be held by video conference and in 6ES Council Briefing Room, Location at City Hall. Individuals who wish to listen to the meeting, may participate by video by joining Cisco Web Ex Link:<https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/j.php?MTID=m78df6b7cca61c5218d4274b18247e50a>

Call to Order

MINUTES

1. [25-651A](#) Approval of the October 30, 2024 Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

BRIEFING ITEMS

- A. [25-653A](#) Administrative Law Judge Recruitment Process
[Jarred Davis, Director, Civil Service]

Attachments: [Attachment](#)

- B. [25-654A](#) Discuss the Consideration of appointments of the Administrative Law Judges (ALJ)
[Matthew L. McDougal, Chair, Judicial Nominating Commission]

Adjournment

Handgun Prohibition Notice for Meetings of Governmental Entities

"Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun."

"De acuerdo con la sección 30.06 del código penal (ingreso sin autorización de un titular de una licencia con una pistola oculta), una persona con licencia según el subcapítulo h, capítulo 411, código del gobierno (ley sobre licencias para portar pistolas), no puede ingresar a esta propiedad con una pistola oculta."

"Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly."

"De acuerdo con la sección 30.07 del código penal (ingreso sin autorización de un titular de una licencia con una pistola a la vista), una persona con licencia según el subcapítulo h, capítulo 411, código del gobierno (ley sobre licencias para portar pistolas), no puede ingresar a esta propiedad con una pistola a la vista."

"Pursuant to Section 46.03, Penal Code (places weapons prohibited), a person may not carry a firearm or other weapon into any open meeting on this property."

"De conformidad con la Sección 46.03, Código Penal (coloca armas prohibidas), una persona no puede llevar un arma de fuego u otra arma a ninguna reunión abierta en esta propiedad."

EXECUTIVE SESSION NOTICE

A closed executive session may be held if the discussion of any of the above agenda items concerns one of the following:

1. seeking the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.071]
2. deliberating the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the city in negotiations with a third person. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.072]
3. deliberating a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the city if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the city in negotiations with a third person. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.073]
4. deliberating the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee unless the officer or employee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.074]
5. deliberating the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.076]
6. discussing or deliberating commercial or financial information that the city has received from a business prospect that the city seeks to have locate, stay or expand in or near the city and with which the city is conducting economic development negotiations; or deliberating the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect. [Tex Govt. Code §551.087]
7. deliberating security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology, network security information, or the deployment or specific occasions for implementations of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices. [Tex Govt. Code §551.089]

Dallas City Boards and Commissions

Agenda Meeting Minutes

The Judicial Nominating Commission meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com. Recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Judicial Nominating Commission Coordinator at (214) 671-5265.

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 **Convened:** 7:00 P.M. **Adjourned:** 7:36 P.M.

JNC Board Members Present:

Matthew McDougal, Chair, District 15
Lauren Black, District 1
Juan R Olivo, District 2
Craig Alan Carrillo, District 4
Catrina B Johnson, District 8
Barbara Clay, District 9
R. Nathan Brin, District 10
Robert Gray, District 11
Carrie Chavez, District 12
Jennifer Balido, District 13
Carl Ginsberg, District 14

JNC Board Members Absent:

Anthony Lyons, District 5
Joe Carreon, District 6
Sara Martinez, District 7

Staff Members Present:

Karen Gonzalez, Management Analyst/ Coordinator
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Rodney Patten, Assistant City Attorney V

AGENDA:

CALL TO ORDER (7:00 P.M.)

MINUTES

1. Approval of the May 20, 2024, Minutes

Motion made by: Jennifer Balido, District 13

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by: Carrie Chavez, District 12

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

BRIEFINGS ITEMS

A. Discuss the Vacant Full-Time Judge position for Dallas Municipal Court

Presenter(s): Matthew McDougal, Chair

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Robinson Preston, Administrative Judge provided the Judicial Nomination Commission an update on the retirement of Judge Michael Acuna. Leaving a vacancy in the municipal court for a full-time position.

Robinson Preston, Administrative Judge asked the JNC to appoint another full-time judge in the vacant position, preferably if that person is one of the current associate judges that the JNC will also potentially appoint another Associate judge to fill the vacancy positions. All other questions and concerns were answered.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

B. Discuss the appointment of possible replacement or additional hire of Associate Judge

Presenter(s): Matthew McDougal, Chair

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

A motion was made to recommend the following candidate to the Ad Hoc Judicial Committee as a full-time Municipal Judge.

- Amar Thakrar

Motion made by: Carl Ginsberg, District 14

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by: Barbara Clay, District 9

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

A motion was made to recommend the following candidate to the Ad Hoc Judicial Committee as an Associate Judge.

- Ashlei Gradney

Motion made by: Carl Ginsberg, District 14

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by: Jennifer Balido, District 13

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

C. Discuss the devising metrics for evaluating applicants in general, including requesting the Dallas Bar Association to expand its bar poll to cover Municipal Judges, and asking Representatives of both any relevant Criminal Bar Associations and the City Attorneys' Office for feedback on the judiciary

Presenter(s): Matthew McDougal, Chair

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Matthew McDougal, Chair open the floor for discussion on future devising metrics for evaluating applicants in general, including requesting the Dallas Bar Association to expand its bar poll to cover Municipal Judges, and asking Representatives of both any relevant Criminal Bar Associations and the City Attorneys' Office for feedback on the judiciary.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

ADJOURNMENT (9:58 P.M)

APPROVED BY:

Matthew McDougal, Chair
Judicial Nominating Commission

ATTESTED BY:

Karen Gonzalez, Coordinator
Judicial Nominating Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RECRUITMENT PROCESS 2024

- The City Council appoints three to five Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) to hear demotion or discharge appeals for eligible City employees. ALJs serve on a rotating basis. There are currently two Administrative Law Judges, Mr. James E. Urmin, Sr., and Ms. Karen R. Washington.
- Contracts will begin on **January 1, 2025 and run through December 31, 2026**. Ms. Karen Gonzalez is liaison to the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Nominations, Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), City Attorney's Office and Civil Service for this process.
- The JNC **Judge Preston Robinson** and City Attorney **Tammy Palomino** will review and approve the recruitment process that will be used to announce the contract positions for ALJs.
- A discharged or demoted employee may appeal the decision of the City Manager's Office by requesting a hearing before the Civil Service Trial Board (TB) or an Administrative Law Judge within ten working days of receiving notice from the City Manager's Office.
 - Trial Board hearings are free to the employee. The TB panel is made up of three citizen volunteers - one member of the Civil Service Board who serves as Chair of the hearing and two members of the Civil Service Adjunct Panel.
 - Administrative Law Judges are compensated \$400.00 per hearing day. The appealing employee pays half of the cost. The City pays the other half.
- Pending any revisions, a copy of the advertisement will be posted in the Civil Service website. Applications and résumés will be accepted through the Workday Applicant Tracking System. As in the past, letters to community organizations will also be sent to an approved mailing list to solicit interest. Receipt of applications and résumés will close on (TBD).