

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICES  
COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 31, 2016  
1:30 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA, B ROOM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, Chair, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Mike Gallagher, <i>District 10</i> Judge Ciro Rodriguez, <i>Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Place 2</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	None
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Martha Sepeda, <i>Interim City Attorney</i> ; Ed Guzman, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Camila Kunau, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Fred Garcia, <i>Municipal Court Clerk, Municipal Court</i> ; Denice F. Treviño, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Margarita Pol, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i> ; Christine D. Lacy, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i> ; Carla D. Obledo, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i> ; Daniel Guerrero, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i> ; James Daniel Kassahn, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i> ; Lisa Gonzales, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i> ; Peter A. Zamora, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i> ; Clarrisa L. Chavarria, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i> ; Linda H. Conley, <i>Municipal Court Judge</i>

**Call to order**

Chairperson Viagran called the meeting to order.

**Citizens to be Heard**

There were no citizens registered to speak.

**1. Consideration of candidates for Full-time Municipal Court Judges. [John Bull, Presiding Municipal Judge]**

Mr. Fred Garcia stated that the Full-Time Municipal Court Judges serve two-year terms and that the current term would expire on April 30, 2016. He stated that last summer, the Governance Council Committee directed the Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Committee to oversee and make recommendations on the reappointment of Judges. He noted that the reappointment of said Judges would be brought before the full City Council for consideration in April 2016.

Chairperson Viagran stated that the Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Council Committee provides oversight of Fire, Police, Animal Care Services, and Code Compliance Departments. She noted that the Subcommittee consists of two Committee Members and one outside appointment by Mayor Taylor. She asked if the process was publicly advertised. Mr. Garcia responded that there are postings when vacancies arise. He added that all nine Full-Time Judges have expressed a desire to be reappointed and are eligible for reappointment.

Councilmember Gallagher asked how the City Council would know that there is a problem and what would cause City Council to look outside of the current Judges. Mr. Garcia stated that prior red flags with

Municipal City Judges were brought forward via internal complaints made to HR, the City Council Offices, or the City Manager's Office. Councilmember Gallagher asked if there was anything built into the system that stated it was time for new Judges. Ms. Martha Sepeda stated that there were multiple opportunities in the past for applicants to apply for vacancies and to reapply for Municipal Court Judges. She also noted that Judges can be replaced and that there had been times that Judges were not reappointed. Councilmember Gallagher expressed that there may be a system created where Judges can be reappointed without accountability.

Chairperson Viagran stated that the Municipal Court's Monthly Reports submitted to the City Council will prevent the event of reappointment without accountability. She stated that the Municipal Court Monthly Report allowed the City Council to review the Judges' performances for reappointment consideration.

Judge Rodriguez asked of the longest tenure of a current Municipal Court Judge. Mr. Garcia responded that the longest a Municipal Judge had served at Municipal Court was since September of 1999. Judge Rodriguez asked of the gender and ethnic makeup of the serving Judges. Mr. Garcia replied that of the nine Full-Time Municipal Court Judges; there were two African-American, two Anglo, and six female Judges. Judge Rodriguez asked if the gender and ethnic makeup of the nine Judges was a fair representation of San Antonio's Demographic Structure. Ms. Sepeda stated that the City Council was susceptible to diversity and they made sure that the Judges reflected the faces of San Antonio. Judge Rodriguez asked if the Judges were required to attend training. Mr. Garcia affirmed that Judges are required to attend training every year.

Chairperson Viagran asked if there were any Spanish Speaking Judges. Mr. Garcia replied that there were severed Judges that were comfortable with having dialogue in Spanish. He noted that Texas State Law required translation if needed. Chairperson Viagran asked if all nine Judges would meet the qualifications for the Municipal Court Judge Position. Ms. Sepeda stated that all of the Judges were in compliance of the qualifications required for the Municipal Court Judge Position. She indicated that there were no staff members to support the City Council with the Municipal Court Judge reappointment process, but that the Office of the City Attorney assisted the City Council with the application process for reappointment of the Judges.

The Subcommittee interviewed the following candidates:

- Margarita Pol
- Christine D. Lacy
- Carla D. Obledo
- Daniel Guerrero
- James Daniel Kassahn
- Lisa Gonzales
- Peter A. Zamora
- Clarissa L. Chavarria
- Linda H. Conley

## **Executive Session**

Chairperson Viagran recessed the Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Council Subcommittee into Executive Session at 3:09 pm for discussion of the following:

- A. Deliberate the appointment, evaluation and duties of Municipal Court Judges and discuss legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (personnel matters) and Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Chairperson Viagran reconvened the meeting at 3:14 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Gallagher moved to recommend the reappointment of the current nine Municipal Court Judges to the full City Council. Judge Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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*Rebecca Viagran, Chair*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Denice F. Treviño, Office of the City Clerk*