



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:15-2352

Agenda Item Number: 35.

Agenda Date: 4/2/2015

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City-Wide

SUBJECT:

Reappointment of the Presiding Judge of the San Antonio Municipal Court

SUMMARY:

This item will reappoint the Presiding Judge of the San Antonio Municipal Court for a two-year term.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Presiding Judge of the San Antonio Municipal Court is appointed by City Council for a two-year term that is staggered from the remaining Municipal Court Judges.

The qualifications for the Presiding Judge are the same as other Municipal Court Judges. The Presiding Judge must (1) be a Texas resident; (2) be a United States citizen; (3) be a licensed attorney in good standing; (4) have practiced law in Texas for a minimum of two years; and (5) be a resident of the City of San Antonio for at least three years immediately preceding appointment.

The duties of the Presiding Judge include:

- Maintaining administrative oversight of judges
- Establishing work rules for the administration of the courts, in consultation with the Court Clerk
- Maintaining a central case docket and requesting jurors for trial
- Maintaining equitable distribution of cases to judges/courts
- Establishing judicial work hours and leave

- Administering the judicial and court budgets

The City Council originally appointed John Bull as Presiding Judge of the San Antonio Municipal Courts on April 22, 2004. He has been reappointed four times, most recently on March 21, 2013. Judge Bull's current term commenced on May 1, 2013 and expires on April 30, 2015.

The City Council Governance Committee considered this matter at its March 25, 2015 Special meeting and recommended the reappointment of John Bull as Presiding Judge of the San Antonio Municipal Court.

ISSUE:

The term of office for the Presiding Judge of the San Antonio Municipal Court will expire on April 30, 2015.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council may consider other candidates for Presiding Judge.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The salary and benefits of the Presiding Judge are included in the Operating Budget of the Municipal Court Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the reappointment of John Bull as Presiding Judge of the San Antonio Municipal Court.