



COUNCIL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013

The City of Austin Council Judicial Committee convened on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in the Executive Session Room, First Floor Room 1027, City Hall, 301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas. Present were Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Council Member Martinez and Council Member Spelman.

1. Call meeting to order:

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 10:31 a.m.

2. Citizen communication:

Mr. Bradley Hargis of the Austin Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association which partners with the Austin Bar and several other Bars recommended that attorneys to be considered for judicial appointments should have actively practiced in criminal law for "x" years before being considered in order to get more experience for underlying issues, especially during magistration at the jail.

3. Minute consideration:

A motion was made by Council Member Spelman, seconded by Council Member Martinez, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2012 meeting without objection. The motion carried with all members voting AYE.

4. Briefing, discussion and possible action regarding the process and additional information needed for the Committee to make recommendations to the City Council concerning candidates for appointment to the City of Austin Municipal Court of a Presiding Judge, seven Associate Judges, twelve Substitute Judges, and an Associate Judge for the Downtown Austin community Court for a four year term beginning January 1, 2014:

Christina Willingham, HR Consultant, and Roberta Byram, Employment Services Manager, proposed a plan to recruit and appointment judges prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>. The plan included timelines for letters of interest to be submitted by sitting judges, performance surveys, external recruitment, pre-screening of candidates by Bar Associations, and possible candidate interviews. Performance reviews will be prepared by the Presiding Judge. If all goes according to plan, recommendations will be made by the Committee on November 7<sup>th</sup> for consideration by the City Council on November 21<sup>st</sup> or December 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Willingham also presented the proposed survey questions. Discussion was held regarding candidate requirements and the policy regarding active private criminal practice while being a sitting judge, which would mostly affect Substitute Judges. No changes to the plan were made although some Judicial Committee dates may change due to scheduling conflicts. No motions were made.

5. Adjourn:

There being no further agenda items, the meeting adjourned without objection at 10:55 a.m.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Stark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rebecca Stark  
Clerk of the Municipal Court

APPROVED:

Approved by Mayor Leffingwell, Council Member Martinez and Council Member Spelman at the Council Judicial Committee meeting held on August 15, 2013.

Rebecca Stark