

Municipal Court Judge Appointments

Presentation to Public Safety Committee | November 2021

Purpose



- O December 31, 2021 Term expiration of current judges within Municipal Court
 - Presiding Judge
 - Associate Judges
 - O Downtown Community Court Judge
 - Substitute Judges
- Update on the steps to date and consider recommended Judges seeking reappointment or candidates seeking appointment



Qualifications

- O Judges must:
 - O Be a U.S. Citizen
 - O Live within the city limits the two (2) years prior to application
 - O Have two (2) years' experience in the practice of law in the State of Texas
 - O Be in good standing with the state bar



Process

- ✓ Ask sitting judges for a letter of interest
 - ☑ Confirm judges continue to meet qualifications for the position
 - ☑ Judges indicate which position they prefer Associate, Substitute, Night Magistrate
- ☑ Evaluate potential vacancies
- ☑ Presiding Judge identifies members of a Judicial Review Panel to recommend to the Public Safety Committee (PSC)
- ☑ Human Resources Department (HRD) posts vacancies
- ☑ Judicial Review Panel reviews letters of interest from sitting judges and applications for vacant positions
- O—Judicial Review Panel recommends judges to the PSC
- Public Safety Committee recommends judges to the City Council
- O December 2021: City Council appoints judges to a four-year term January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2025



Judicial Review Panel (JRP)

- JRP members were contacted and a meeting was convened by the Presiding Judge
- Memorandum on the process, status, and JRP members sent on September 9, 2021

- O 2021 JRP Members:
 - O Betty Blackwell, Criminal Law Attorney
 - O Lucio A. Del Toro, First Assistant, Travis County Attorney's Office
 - Karly Jo Dixon, Managing Attorney, Texas Fair Defense Project
 - O Leah Downey-Gallatin, Staff Attorney, Travis County Courts at Law
 - O Joshua Griggers, Sergeant Robbery Unit, APD
 - O Aaron Mueller, Criminal Law Attorney
 - Margaret Chen Kercher, Criminal Law Attorney
 - Amber Vasquez, Criminal Law Attorney
 - O Sidney Williams, Criminal Law Attorney
 - Dana Weis, Solo-practice Criminal Law Attorney





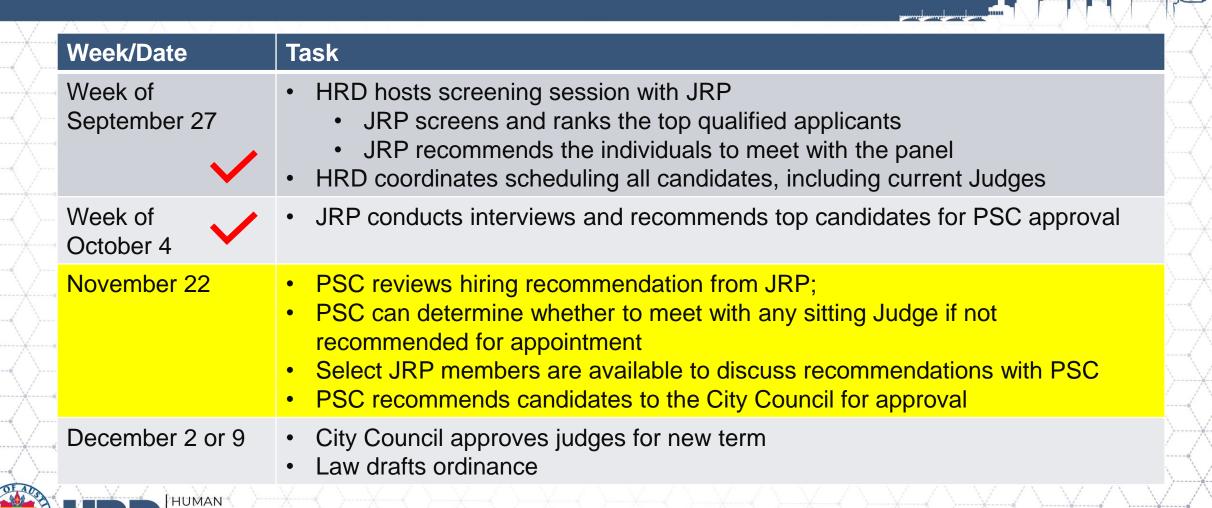
Timeline 2021



>	Week/Date	Task
<u>}</u>	July 19	 Municipal Court/HRD updates PSC on the Judicial process Reviews the JRP with the PSC
} } }	July 26 – August 6	 Municipal Court collects letters of intent from current judges, compile mid- and end- of term evaluations; creates files for each judge including evaluations and other pertinent information Assemble JRP
/ } }	August 9 – September 7	 HRD begin formal advertisement Positions posted on niche websites, social media, and with local bar and criminal defense organizations
/ }	September 8 – 24	 HRD screens applications Meeting with JRP is scheduled to review applications and letters of intent



Timeline 2021 Continued





Screening & Interviews

- The JRP reviewed sitting judges and applicants
- JRP evaluated the candidates and have a recommendation for the PSC

Today

- PSC will review the recommendation from the JRP
- O The PSC may accept the recommendation or conduct additional interviews



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Questions?

