



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Mike Land, City Manager

From: Traci E. Leach, Deputy City Manager

Date: January 22, 2019

Reference: Appointment of Alternate Judges

2030: **Sustainable City Government: Goal 4 Top Quality Workforce**

Introduction:

Judge Nesbitt retired in November 2018 and Judge Landwehr, the City's current Presiding Judge, is resigning effective January 27, 2019. Since receiving these notices, several candidates were interviewed by both City staff and current Judges Carlsen and Landwehr for both the Presiding Judge and Alternate Judge positions.

At the January 8, 2019 Council meeting, Honorable Kristine Primrose was appointed to serve as the next Presiding Municipal Judge. Tonight, staff is recommending that Honorable Kimberly Lafferty be appointed to serve the remainder of Judge Nesbitt's contract as an Alternate Judge. Judge Lafferty is currently serving as an Associate Judge in Lewisville and Seagoville and has previously served as an Associate Judge in The Colony as well. She has over twenty years of litigation and appellate experience and eighteen years of municipal experience.

In addition to the appointment of Judge Lafferty, staff is recommending adding a third Alternate Judge to the Court. This position will provide additional flexibility in scheduling, particularly for the after hour and weekend requirements of the Court. The aggregate hours required to properly administer the judicial responsibilities of the court is not anticipated to change. However, those hours will be split among four judges instead of three moving forward.

Staff is recommending that Honorable Peter Graham be appointed to serve as the third Alternate Judge. Judge Graham would serve under the same terms as Judge Lafferty and would have a term ending in September 30, 2020, which is consistent with the term of all of the judges' contracts. Judge Graham has served as an Associate Judge in Irving since 2004 and has focused on the after-hours and on-call services. Judge Graham served as a United States Marine and received an honorable discharge in 2013.

Analysis: As with the appointment of Judge Primrose, time is of the essence. Staff is recommending that both judges begin work immediately to train with Judges Landwehr and Carlsen before January 27. This training will not be related to legal knowledge, rather it will allow Judges Lafferty and Graham to learn the processes, procedures, and systems that are in place to administer the Coppel Municipal Court.

Legal: The City Attorney has reviewed the Ordinance.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance to appoint Hon. Kimberly Lafferty and Hon. Peter Graham as Associate Judges for the Coppel Municipal Court of record.