



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Denton Municipal Judge's Office

ICM/ACM: C. Tyler Atkinson, Denton Municipal Judge

DATE: November 18, 2025

SUBJECT

Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton, Texas, reappointing the Honorable Ann Poston, The Honorable Cynthia Burkett, and The Honorable Kimberly Lafferty, and Hyattye Simmons each as Assistant Judge for the City of Denton Municipal Court of Record for a two (2) year term beginning December 31st, 2025, and ending December 30, 2027; appointing Alissa Janke as Assistant Judge for the City of Denton Municipal Court of Record for a two (2) year term beginning December 31, 2025, and ending December 30, 2027; authorizing expenditure of funds; authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for the designated term of office for each judge; and declaring an effective date.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the Denton Code of Ordinances (Sec. 19-36), Assistant Judges are appointed in odd- numbered years for two (2) year terms while the Presiding Judge is appointed in-even numbered years.

Since February of 1996, Council has appointed Assistant Judges to assist the Presiding Judge with the weekly operations of the Court including coverage of any dockets and other judicial/ magisterial duties that must be performed in the absence or illness of the Presiding Judge. While Assistant Judges could be called upon to perform duties when necessary, Assistant Judges are not guaranteed any minimum number of hours.

Starting in October 2021, the Court implemented evening arraignments for individuals detained in the city's jail facility. Our Assistant Judges have the primary responsibility for conducting these arraignments. This expanded service has been implemented using existing budgeted funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the recommendation of the Judge's Office that the Council re-appoint all four of our current Assistant Judges: the Honorable Ann Poston, the Honorable Cynthia Burkett, the Honorable Kimberly Lafferty, and the Honorable Judge Hyattye Simmons. Also, the Judge's Office recommends that the Council appoint one new Assistant Judge: Alissa Janke. All five Judges are members in good standing with the State Bar of Texas and well respected in their current positions. Based upon my experience and conversations with each of the Judges, it is my opinion they each have a good temperament for judicial position, are well versed and knowledgeable in the law, and have demonstrated the character necessary to maintain the dignity and professionalism of the Court. I believe that they will each represent the City of Denton well.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

Related Key Focus Area: Safe, Livable & Family-Friendly Community
Related Goal: 4.1 Enhance public safety in the community

FISCAL INFORMATION

The appointment or re-appointment of Assistant Municipal Judges will have no fiscal or financial impact, as there are no additional costs or additional positions created. Any compensation will be derived from the currently budgeted amounts. One assistant judge position will remain vacant for now.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 – Agenda Information Sheet
Exhibit 2 – Draft Ordinance of Appointments
Exhibit 3 – Resumes

Respectfully submitted:

C. Tyler Atkinson
Presiding Municipal Judge Denton Municipal Court