



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Judge Jill A. Hueser, Chief Judge
Ingrid Decker, Legal

SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Appointment of Assistant Municipal Judges.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A. Resolution 2023-002 Reappointing Kristin Brown as an Assistant Municipal Judge of the Fort Collins Municipal Court and Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement.
- B. Resolution 2023-003 Reappointing Vicki Cirbo as an Assistant Municipal Judge of the Fort Collins Municipal Court and Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement.
- C. Resolution 2023-004 Reappointing Michelle Kline as an Assistant Municipal Judge of the Fort Collins Municipal Court and Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement.
- D. Resolution 2023-005 Reappointing Brandi Nieto as an Assistant Municipal Judge of the Fort Collins Municipal Court and Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement.
- E. Resolution 2023-006 Reappointing Courtney Patterson as an Assistant Municipal Judge of the Fort Collins Municipal Court and Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement.
- F. Resolution 2023-007 Appointing Sarah Simchowicz as an Assistant Municipal Judge of the Fort Collins Municipal Court and Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement.

The purpose of this item is to reappoint all current Assistant Municipal Judges for a term of two years and to appoint Sarah Simchowicz to her first two year term. The City Charter provides for the appointment of judges of the Municipal Court for two (2) year terms. Chief Judge Jill A. Hueser recommends that all current Assistant Municipal Judges be reappointed, to serve in the absence of the Chief Judge.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolutions.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

These Resolutions reappoint the five currently serving Assistant Municipal Judges for a new two-year term and appoints Sarah Simchowicz as a new assistant municipal judge and authorizes the Mayor to execute employment agreements. Judge Brown's previous appointment expired November 30, 2022. Judges Kline, Nieto, Cirbo and Patterson are all currently serving two-year appointments that expire at various times in

2023 and 2024. The Chief Judge is requesting that all the Assistant Municipal Judges be reappointed at this time so that all will be on the same schedule for possible reappointment in the future.

Chief Judge Hueser recommends these appointments in order to provide adequate relief judge resources to cover vacation and sick leave as well as cases where there may be a conflict for one or more judges.

Judge Nieto is a reputable and qualified attorney with no disciplinary history who has substantial judicial experience and has served the City as an assistant municipal judge for several years. She is also a relief judge for the Cities of Loveland, Thornton, and Longmont.

Judge Kline is a reputable and qualified attorney with no disciplinary history who has substantial judicial experience and has served the City as an assistant municipal judge for several years. She is currently the presiding judge in the City of Brighton and Towns of Hudson, Keenesburg, and Mountain View. She is a relief judge in the Cities of Boulder, Commerce City, Eaton, Lafayette, Thornton, and Westminster as well as the Towns of Erie, Severance, and Windsor. She also serves as a part-time Magistrate for the City and County of Denver.

Judge Brown is a reputable and qualified attorney with no disciplinary history who has substantial judicial experience and has served the City as an assistant municipal judge for two years. She is also the presiding municipal judge for the Town of Lyons and a relief judge for the Cities of Thornton, Longmont, and Broomfield and the Towns of Superior and Mead.

Judge Patterson is a reputable and qualified attorney with no disciplinary history who has substantial judicial experience and has served the City as an assistant municipal judge for over two years. She is a relief judge for the Cities of Loveland, Longmont, Thornton, and Westminster.

Judge Cirbo (formerly Pace) is a reputable and qualified attorney with no disciplinary history who has substantial experience as an attorney practicing both criminal and civil law. Judge Cirbo has also worked specifically in the area of municipal law. She is also a relief judge for the City of Aurora.

Judge Simchowicz is a reputable and qualified attorney with no disciplinary history who has substantial experience in municipal law. She is currently a municipal court judge for the Town of Ignacio and an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Aurora.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The proposed rate of pay of \$90 per hour is in line with the rate being paid by other Municipal Courts in the front range and reflects the amount offered in recent postings of this type. These Assistant Municipal Judges will serve on an as-needed bases and the expense will be covered by the current Municipal Court budget.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution A for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution A
3. Resolution B for Consideration
4. Exhibit A to Resolution B
5. Resolution C for Consideration
6. Exhibit A to Resolution C
7. Resolution D for Consideration
8. Exhibit A to Resolution D
9. Resolution E for Consideration
10. Exhibit A to Resolution E
11. Resolution F for Consideration
12. Exhibit A to Resolution F