

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Judge Jill A. Hueser, Chief Judge

SUBJECT

Resolution 2025-062 Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Cities of Fort Collins, Greeley and Loveland for the Exchange of Judicial Services and Appointing Temporary Judges.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to authorize an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Cities of Greeley and Loveland for judicial services to be used in the event that a conflict of interest or other circumstance prevents the Municipal Judge and assistant judges from hearing a particular Municipal Court case. This agreement is intended to replace a prior 2023 IGA between Fort Collins, Loveland, and Greeley. A similar agreement was also in place prior to 2023. This agreement is updated to include all current, eligible judges from each jurisdiction.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

On occasion, the Municipal Judge may be prevented from sitting on the bench by reason of personal conflict of interest, illness, vacation, or other reason, and the Assistant Municipal Judge presiding over and conducting the Municipal Court in such event may also be unavailable.

Executing an IGA is a cost-effective method of providing for judicial services in the event of an absence of the Municipal Judge.

The City Charter gives Council the authority to name the Municipal Judge and any alternate judge.

The Resolution authorizes the Mayor to execute the agreement with the Cities of Greeley and Loveland as described in the Resolution. The Resolution names the Loveland Municipal Judge, the Honorable Jennifer Edgley, and Loveland's Deputy Municipal Judge, the Honorable Carrie Clein as well as the Greeley Municipal Judge, the Honorable Mark Gonzales, and Greeley's Assistant Municipal Judges, the Honorable Keith Coleman, and the Honorable Jerry Manzer, who are all reputable attorneys and qualified to act as the Fort Collins Municipal Judge, to provide judicial services to the City in the absence of the current Municipal Judges, through May 30, 2027.

The Chief Judge and the City Attorney's Office have reviewed public records related to each of these judges' status and reputation and confirmed their good standing as attorneys in Colorado and their reputations and qualifications as attorneys and judges.

- Judge Edgley has been a licensed attorney for 10 years and has been licensed in Colorado since 2023. She has been the Municipal Judge for Loveland since November, 2024.
- Judge Clein was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1984 and practiced law as a Deputy Colorado State Public Defender from 1983 to 1993. In 1993, she joined the law firm of Harrington Brewster and Clein, P.C. where she is a partner. Judge Clein was appointed in Loveland in 2019 and is also a judicial officer for Lakewood municipal Court and the Denver Civil Service Commission.
- Judge Gonzales was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 2000 and has been the Greeley Municipal Judge since May 2018. Before that he served as a Weld County District Court Magistrate for nine years. He has also served as a Weld County Deputy District Attorney and a Greeley Assistant City Attorney.
- Judge Coleman was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1994 and has his own criminal defense practice in Greeley. He was appointed as an Assistant Municipal Judge in Greeley in 2018.
- Judge Manzer was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 2004. He has a private law practice in Greeley.

The City of Loveland City Council considers approval of the IGA by resolution on June 3, 2025, and the City of Greeley City Council considers approval of the IGA by resolution on June 3, 2025.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 2025-062