

To: City of Port Lavaca Mayor & City Council

Date: May 6, 2024

Re: Municipal Court Judge Reappointment

Honorable Mayor & City Council,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the honor and privilege of allowing me to serve our city as Municipal Court Judge for the past eight years. After serving our community sixteen years as city councilman for District 2, which fourteen years were as Mayor Pro Tem, prepared me to successfully be an effective Municipal Court Judge. Restoring court integrity and treating each defendant with dignity and respect was the first order of my judicial duty.

In late April 2024, I completed the required sixteen-hour annual training. Meanwhile, the Texas Supreme Court mandated all Municipal Courts to establish a Confidentiality policy, our court complied. Also, tragic events like the one in Uvalde in May 2022 have increased awareness about the importance of identifying and responding to at-risk youth and those with mental illness. Experts believe that early identification and intervention involving gateway offenses is crucial in reducing repeat offenders, system involvement, costs, and in helping youth access necessary services. Thus, Texas H.B. 3186 was legislated in 2023 to adopt the Texas Youth Diversion and Early Intervention Act (*Diversion Plan*) for juveniles ages 10 – 17. My court, along with the city prosecutor, will create a favorable Diversion Plan policy for our court within the coming months.

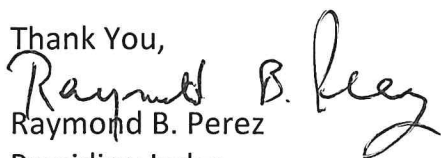
As well, the undesirable events from August 2014 in Ferguson, Mo. continues to drive the Texas Legislators to reshape the Texas Municipal courts with emphasis in providing alternative options to defray fines and at times court cost. Incarceration is not a viable option, as well as, imposing undue financial burden on defendants. Therefore, my court, along with the city prosecutor, recalled and reviewed the outstanding Capias Pro Fine warrants for accuracy and will proceed to enlighten officers to use their discretion in executing all Arrest, Capias, and Capias Pro Fine warrants. While my court offers options to default fines and court cost through community service or other available means.

As I assisted in legislating policies during my years on council, my desire is to continue to establish comprehensive policies that will better support our court. I would like for the Mayor & City council to favorably consider my reappointment as Municipal Court Judge.

Thank You,

Raymond B. Perez

Presiding Judge



Armandina "Mandy" De La Garza Grant

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City of Port Lavaca

June 04, 2024

Re: Municipal Court Judge

Interim City Manager Jody Weaver
Honorable Mayor Jack Whitlow
and City Council Members

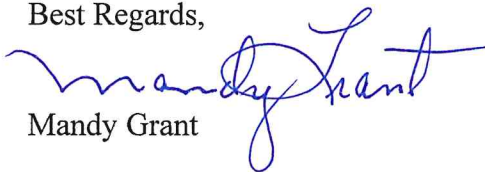
I wish to apply for the next term as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Port Lavaca. I am well qualified for this position and I appreciate your consideration. I am currently the City Secretary and Court Administrator for the City.

I first served the City of Port Lavaca in 1976 as a Police Dispatcher and also received certified training from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), where I graduated from the Victoria Police Academy as a licensed peace officer. I maintained that commission thru 1996.

I have proudly served the city a second time since December 1991, for more than 32 years, in different capacities. I have gained valuable experience by working in every department of the City, with the exception of the Fire Department. I have served as a Records Clerk, Building-Utility-Permits Clerk, Animal Control Officer, Purchasing Administrator, Assistant City Secretary and Interim City Manager. I have also received 92 hours of continuous certified court clerk training from the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC).

I am seriously contemplating retiring from my present position; however, I would like to stay engaged with the city and its citizens. I believe that my diverse experience and skills will be an asset to the city. I look forward to your decision.

Best Regards,



Mandy Grant