

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Action: Presiding Judge Reappointment

Meeting Date: August 9, 2010
Department: Municipal Court
www.ci.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 4
Staff Contact: Jeff Perry
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5019

ISSUE STATEMENT

This is a consent calendar item to reappoint Presiding Judge Wayne Allen for an additional four-year term.

BACKGROUND

On April 26, 2010, the City Council appointed the 2010 Judicial Evaluation Committee. As defined by Eugene Code, Section 2.011, the judicial evaluation committee must include one member of the City's Human Rights Commission, two attorneys familiar with Eugene Municipal Court, and at least two other persons generally familiar with the judicial system. The evaluation committee appointed for 2010 includes the following members; Raydeen Cuffe - Human Rights Commission, Greg Hazarabedian and Dan Neal - attorney representatives, and Judge Kip Leonard and Kathy Cunningham - persons familiar with the judicial system.

During the months of May through July the committee met and discussed the evaluation process, reviewed court statistics and Municipal Court customer satisfaction ratings, and issued two judicial surveys. The committee met with Judge Allen on July 13, 2010, and discussed improvements made by the court, changes the court has seen over the last several years and his response to the results of the judicial survey.

On July 28, 2010, the judicial evaluation committee's report and recommendation were presented by Judge Kip Leonard to the City Council. Judge Leonard explained the evaluation process, the details of the report, the committee's discussion with Judge Allen, and offered the evaluation committee's unanimous recommendation that Judge Allen be reappointed for another four-year term as Presiding Judge. Judge Allen met with the council to discuss the evaluation results immediately following the committee's judicial report presentation.

TIMING

Judge Allen's contract expires August 30, 2010.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Eugene Code, Section 2.011 allows for a formal evaluation of the City's Presiding Judge once every four years by a citizen evaluation committee. The last formal evaluation was conducted in 2006.

Citizen evaluation of a judge's performance is an opportunity for citizen involvement in local government, and is a practice which is unique to the City of Eugene.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The council has the following options:

1. Reappoint Judge Allen for an additional four-year term
2. Extend Judge Allen's current term an extra 45 days for further consideration after the public hearing
3. Direct staff to begin a recruitment process for a new Presiding Judge

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends reappointing Wayne Allen as Presiding Judge

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to reappoint Wayne Allen as Presiding Judge.

ATTACHMENTS

The 2010 Judicial Evaluation Committee report was distributed with the council packet for the July 28, 2010, work session.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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