

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Public Hearing: Judicial Evaluation

Meeting Date: November 17, 2014
Department: Municipal Court
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Alana Holmes
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ISSUE STATEMENT

Eugene Code 2.011 requires a formal citizen review in the last year of the Presiding Judge's four-year term. A public hearing on the performance of Presiding Municipal Judge Wayne Allen is part of that citizen review process.

BACKGROUND

Presiding Municipal Judge Wayne Allen was appointed by the council in 1994, and is in the fourth year of his current four-year term. The last formal evaluation was conducted in 2010, at which time the council reappointed Judge Allen and directed City staff to renew his contract for another four-year term. On July 28, 2014, the council appointed the members of the 2014 Judicial Evaluation Committee:

Human Rights Commission representative:

- Ken Neubeck

Attorneys familiar with the judicial system:

- Joe Connelly – Defense Attorney
- John Kilcullen – Local Attorney and former Municipal Court Judge

Others familiar with the judicial system:

- Eric Richardson – NAACP President
- Francisca Leyva Johnson – A former coordinator for Court Paso a Paso program
- Kathy Cunningham – Springfield Municipal Court Administrator

The Judicial Evaluation Committee reviewed survey responses from stakeholders, court performance data, defendant survey responses, complaints filed, and had a discussion with Judge Allen about court issues and accomplishments since 2010. The committee presented its report to the council in a work session on November 12, 2014.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Eugene Code, Section 2.011 allows for a formal evaluation of the City's Presiding Municipal Judge once every four years by a citizen evaluation committee. The last formal evaluation was conducted in 2010. 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

Not applicable.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that the council hold a public hearing.

SUGGESTED MOTION

No motion is required.

ATTACHMENTS

The 2014 Judicial Evaluation Committee report was distributed with the council packet for the November 12, 2014, work session.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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