

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Appointments of Judicial Evaluation Committee

Meeting Date: July 28, 2014
Department: Municipal Court
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 2G
Staff Contact: Kristie Hammitt
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5524

ISSUE STATEMENT

This is a consent calendar item to review the Mayor's nomination to the citizen Judicial Evaluation Committee and to appoint committee members.

BACKGROUND

By Eugene Code, the City Council may initiate a formal judicial evaluation process every four years which is to be conducted by a Judicial Evaluation Committee. The most recent formal evaluation occurred in 2010, and a subsequent evaluation is due in 2014. Presiding Judge Wayne Allen has served the Municipal Court since 1994. The last judicial evaluation report was presented to the City Council at a work session on July 28, 2010. On August 9, 2010, the City Council discussed the report findings with Presiding Judge Allen in a work session, formally accepted the evaluation report and reappointed Judge Allen.

As defined by Eugene Code 2.011, the Judicial Evaluation Committee shall be nominated by the Mayor and 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. Below are the committee nominations:

Human Rights Commission representative:

- Ken Neubeck

Attorneys familiar with the judicial system:

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

Others familiar with the judicial system:

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

The committee will submit its report to the Council at a work session in November 2014, at which

time Councilors may discuss the report's findings with the committee members. A public hearing will be scheduled after this work session. At a second work session in November, councilors will meet with Presiding Municipal Court Judge Wayne Allen to discuss the report's findings, feedback from the public hearing and court issues in general. City Council action to formally accept the report will be scheduled prior to council's winter break.

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 2010. Citizen evaluation of a judge's performance is an excellent opportunity for citizen involvement in local government, and is a practice which is unique to the City of Eugene.

COUNCIL OPTION

The council has the following option:

1. Approve the Mayor's recommendations and, by consent, appoint the nominated individuals to the judicial Evaluation Committee.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends approving the Mayor's recommendations and, by consent, appointing the nominated individuals to the Judicial Evaluation Committee.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to appoint the nominated individuals to the Judicial Evaluation Committee for 2014.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Kristie Hammitt or Alana Holmes

Telephone: 541-682-5524 or 541-682-5765

Staff E-Mail: kristie.a.hammitt@ci.eugene.or.us or alana.m.holmes@ci.eugene.or.us