

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: October 8, 2024
General Plan Element: ***Community Involvement***
General Plan Goal: ***Process city issues in a convenient manner for citizens***

ACTION

Appointment of Pro Tem Judges for the City Court. Adopt Resolution No 13227, approving the appointment of 7 Pro Tem Judges for an initial two-year term for the period of October 8, 2024 through October 7, 2026.

The following individuals are requested for appointment to a two-year term: Scott Adams, Susie Charbel, Laura Estay Lowery, Patricia George, Nicole Knowlton, Patricia Riggs, and Karen Yakubi.

BACKGROUND

The City Court utilizes judges *pro tempore* ('Pro Tems') as backup and temporary judicial officers to ensure prompt coverage for both routine and unexpected occurrences in conducting court calendars and proceedings. The *Pro Tem* names nominated constitute a roster of qualified candidates upon which the Court can draw to ensure temporary and on call judge coverage. The size of the roster is driven by the individuals' availability to serve. Those listed on the roster commonly have a private practice which limits their ability to serve for all *Pro Tem* requests; thus, the roster is of a size to provide the City Court with adequate resources for *Pro Tem* service. Regular City Court Judges are required to obtain judicial training each year, through conferences and attendance at orientations; additionally, permanent judges participate in judicial briefings and committees. Upon these absences, as well as unexpected absences for vacation or illness, a substitute is required. *Pro Tem* judges are considered part time, non-benefitted City employees and are paid \$80.94 per hour when they serve. The City Court budgets for these charges in the personnel services budget category, with approximately \$106,784. allocated in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The City Court concertedly works to manage *Pro Tem* expenditures within the approved budget amount.

ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

Recent Staff Action

Pro Tem judge open recruitment commenced on April 17th, 2024 and closed on May 17th, 2024, allowing interested *Pro Tem* judges to apply.

Policy Implications

No policy implications exist.

Significant Issues to be Addressed

There are no significant issues to be addressed.

Community Involvement

Community involvement is not applicable.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

Available funding

The City Court has approximately \$106,784. in the personnel services budget for the express purpose of *Pro Tem* judge pay.

Staffing, Workload Impact

In Fiscal Year 2023/24 the City Court received 91,958 new case filings and adjudicated 88,677 cases. In Fiscal Year 2024/25, the estimated year end filings will be over 90,000 new filings. The use of *Pro Tem* judges assists the Court in providing timely and prompt conduct of the court calendars.

Maintenance Requirements

There are no foreseen maintenance requirements.

Future Budget Implications

There are no foreseen budget implications.

Cost Recovery Options

Cost recovery is not applicable.

OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommended Approach

Adopt Resolution No. 13227 approving the appointment of City Court *Pro Tem* Judges from the stated roster to an initial two-year term for the period of October 8, 2024 through October 7, 2026.

Description of Option B

There is no alternative either considered or proposed due to the critical nature of City Court operations. The City Court will work to contain budget expenditures within the approved budget.

Proposed Next Steps

The City Court will continue use as needed.

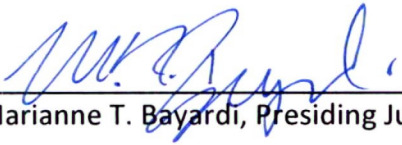
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)

City Court

STAFF CONTACTS (S)

Chris Phelps, Court Administrator, cphelps@scottsdaleaz.gov

APPROVED BY



Marianne T. Bayardi, Presiding Judge

9/5/24

Date

c/o Chris Phelps, Court Administrator, 480-312-2775

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 13227

RESOLUTION NO. 13227

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN CITY COURT JUDGES PRO TEMPORE.

WHEREAS, under Section 9-3(a) of the Scottsdale Revised Code, one of the duties of the Presiding Judge of the City Court is to submit to the City Council, for review and appointment, as necessary, names of members of the State Bar of Arizona who are available as judges pro tempore of the City Court; and

WHEREAS, the City Court utilizes judges pro tempore as backup and temporary judicial officers to ensure prompt coverage for both routine and unexpected occurrences in conducting court calendars and proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Section 9-2(b) of the Scottsdale Revised Code requires that the initial appointment of judges pro tempore shall be for a term of two (2) years and any subsequent reappointment shall be for a term of four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, the following members of the State Bar of Arizona are available as judges pro tempore of the City Court for an initial term of two (2) years: Scott Adams, Susie Charbel, Laura Estay Lowery, Patricia George, Nicole Knowlton, Patricia Riggs, and Karen Yakubi.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1. The following qualified members of the State Bar of Arizona are hereby appointed as judges pro tempore of the City Court for an initial term of two (2) years beginning on October 8, 2024, and ending on October 7, 2026: Scott Adams, Susie Charbel, Laura Estay Lowery, Patricia George, Nicole Knowlton, Patricia Riggs, and Karen Yakubi.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona this _____ day of _____, 2024.


CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an Arizona
municipal corporation

ATTEST:

David D. Ortega, Mayor

Ben Lane, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sherry R. Scott, City Attorney
By: Shane C. Morrison, Assistant City Attorney

ATTACHMENT 1