

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS  
AGENDA ITEM  
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA DATE:** August 16, 2022

**CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:** Lilia Worrell, Municipal Court Clerk  
915-212-5822

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:** All

**STRATEGIC GOAL: No. 2: Set the Standard for Safe and Secure City**

**SUBGOAL: 2.7 Maximize Municipal Court efficiency and enhance customer experience**

**SUBJECT:**

**APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.**

Discussion and action on a resolution to approve the creation of Court 5T – a temporary court – that will be presided over by Associate Judges, as assigned by the Presiding Judge. The time period will be from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, to assist with the large number of pending cases caused by the reduction in docket counts, closures, and safe distancing requirements in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Court will handle primarily traffic violations but will also hear Class C, accidents, and animal violations.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

**Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?**

Due to the Covid pandemic the number of cases awaiting a trial or hearing has increased dramatically. The current case count awaiting a setting is at 74,000; therefore, to address the backlog, a resolution for the creation of a 12 month temporary court will be brought forward. There will be 2 sessions scheduled in the morning. The Presiding Judge will assign Associate Judges to preside over the court. The estimated start date will be October 1, 2022.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

**Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?**

There have been 3 previous temporary courts created in the past: one in 2006-2007, 2012 and 2021.

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

**How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?**

A separate division will be created - \$ 300,000 from the City's General Fund; it does not require a budget transfer

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? ☒ YES ☐ NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Municipal Court  
SECONDARY DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

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\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:**

*Lila Worrell*

(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)