

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

DEPARTMENT: Municipal Court
AGENDA DATE: December 4, 2023
CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Lilia Worrell, 212-5822
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All
STRATEGIC GOAL: NO. 2: Set the Standard for Safe and Secure City

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 the appointment of **Lauren Ferris** to fill the vacancy for Municipal Court Judge for Court # 4 resulting from the appointment of Judge Enrique Holguin to a federal magistrate position. The appointee will serve until the next general election, November 2024, pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.44.030.

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?

Seven candidates submitted applications; all were qualified: **Enrique Garcia, Lauren Ferris, Elia Garcia, Cori Harbour-Valdez, Rolando Morales, Sara Elizabeth Priddy, and Roberto Antonio Ramos**

One City Representative nominated Ms. Lauren Ferris' for the position; there were no other nominations.

Municipal Court Judges hear Traffic, Class C Misdemeanor and City Ordinance Violation cases. The position will also require the Judge to be available on an on-call basis.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

Yes, it is City Council who appoints a Municipal Court Judge when an Elected Judge resigns in accordance with Municipal Code, section 2.44.020 to serve until the next general election. The last appointment made for this specific court was in February 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?

The item has been budgeted in the
Judiciary budget -
General Fund. Dept # 111
Fund 1000 Division 11060

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

Enter appropriate comments or N/A

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Lilia Worrell

(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the following applicant be appointed to fill the vacancy for Municipal Court Judge Court # 4 resulting from the appointment of former Court #4 Judge Enrique Holguin to a federal magistrate position. The appointee will serve until the next general election, November 2024, pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.44.030.

Appointment:

Lauren Ferris

APPROVED this ____ day of December, 2023.

CITY OF EL PASO:

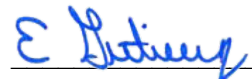
Oscar Leeser, Mayor

ATTEST:


Laura D. Prine, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Eric Gutierrez
Senior Assistant City Attorney



Lilia A. Worrell
Director for Municipal Court

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION



CITY OF EL PASO
300 N. Campbell
El Paso, Texas 79901
915-212-0045
<http://www.elpasotexas.gov>

Ferris, Lauren K.
EE7710-0923 MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE, COURT 4

Received: 10/18/23
12:49 PM
For Official Use Only:
QUAL: _____
DNO: _____
 Experience
 Training
 Other: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POSITION TITLE: MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE, COURT 4		EXAM ID#: [REDACTED]
NAME: (Last, First, Middle) Ferris, Lauren K.		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: N/A
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) [REDACTED]		EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]		
DRIVER'S LICENSE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DRIVER'S LICENSE: State: TX Number: [REDACTED]	
What is your highest level of education? Doctorate		

PREFERENCES

ARE YOU WILLING TO RELOCATE? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maybe
WHAT TYPE OF JOB ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? Regular
TYPES OF WORK YOU WILL ACCEPT: Full Time
SHIFTS YOU WILL ACCEPT: Day
OBJECTIVE: My objective is to apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to serve again as Municipal Court Judge for Court # 4, making decisions based on the law and the best interests for the El Paso community. I will bring integrity, respect, and compassion to the bench while serving justice and running an efficient court.

EDUCATION

DATES: From: 8/2009 To: 12/2011	SCHOOL NAME: University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law	
LOCATION: (City, State/Province) Little Rock, Arkansas	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DEGREE RECEIVED: Professional
MAJOR: Doctorate of Jurisprudence		
DATES: From: 8/2005 To: 12/2008	SCHOOL NAME: The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)	
LOCATION: (City, State/Province) El Paso, Texas	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DEGREE RECEIVED: Bachelor's
MAJOR: Political Science/ Criminal Justice		

WORK EXPERIENCE

DATES: From: 6/2019 To: Present	EMPLOYER: Ferris Law Office	POSITION TITLE: Sole Proprietor
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 1108 N. Campbell, El Paso, Texas, 79902		
PHONE NUMBER: 9152291790	SUPERVISOR: Lauren K. Ferris - Attorney	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 30		
DUTIES: I represent clients on various legal matters, with a focus on traffic tickets, criminal defense cases, and estate planning		
DATES: From: 1/2020 To: Present	EMPLOYER: El Paso County Dispute Resolution Center	POSITION TITLE: Mediator
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) El Paso, Texas		
PHONE NUMBER: 915-533-0998	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
HOURS PER WEEK: 4	SALARY: \$0.00/month	
COMPANY URL: http://elpasodrc.org/		

DUTIES: I serve as a volunteer mediator to help resolve disputes amongst parties in an amicable and cost saving manner.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Currently still volunteer		
DATES: From: 1/2020 To: 2/2021	EMPLOYER: City of El Paso	POSITION TITLE: Municipal Court Judge
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 810 East Overland, El Paso, Texas, 79901		
PHONE NUMBER: 915-212-0215	SUPERVISOR: Lilia Worrell - Municipal Court Clerk	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 20	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 1	
DUTIES: I was the Judge of El Paso Municipal Court # 4. I presided over all Class C Misdemeanor cases that were issued in the City of El Paso to include traffic citations, animal violations, and code enforcement violations. I fairly, efficiently, and justly evaluated cases and enforced the applicable State laws or local ordinances. I presided over pre-trials, bench trials and jury trials, motions, civil bail bond hearings, warrants, and other relevant hearings and judicial matters.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: My term ended.		
DATES: From: 7/2012 To: 5/2019	EMPLOYER: City of El Paso	POSITION TITLE: Assistant City Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) El Paso, Texas, 79901		
SUPERVISOR: Teresa Cullen - Former Deputy City Attorney	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
HOURS PER WEEK: 50	SALARY: \$3,600.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 3
DUTIES: Worked on a variety of transactional matters, to include drafting of contracts, liens, loan documents, ordinances, and resolutions for various departments of the City: Community and Human Development, Museums and Cultural Affairs, Parks and Recreation, Libraries, Zoo, Streets and Maintenance Department, Sun Metro (Mass Transit Department), Economic Development, Planning and Inspections, and Environmental Services. Additionally, I provided legal advice, recommendations, and opinions on legal issues that came before the City and worked with various City boards and committees. I also represented the City in the prosecution of thousands of violations of the City of El Paso ordinances and all Class C misdemeanors. As a City Prosecutor, I also handled civil bail bond forfeitures and right to possession hearings. I compiled and presented trainings for the City of El Paso Environmental Department Code Officers, which was needed for their State certification.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: New opportunities presented themselves for advancement in my career		
DATES: From: 5/2012 To: 7/2012	EMPLOYER: Wayne Wright, LLP	POSITION TITLE: Social Security Disability Law Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) El Paso, Texas		
MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
HOURS PER WEEK: 60	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 4	
DUTIES: Filed appeals for Social Security Disability benefits for clients, interviewed clients, drafted necessary pleadings, prepared for and attended administrative law hearings on the cases		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Received a better opportunity for growth with the City		
DATES: From: 5/2011 To: 12/2011	EMPLOYER: UALR William H. Bowen School of Law Litigation Clinic	POSITION TITLE: Rule XV Student Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) Little Rock, Arkansas		
SUPERVISOR: Beth Levi - Supervising Attorney	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
HOURS PER WEEK: 15		
DUTIES: Worked on family law and civil cases in conjunction with the Center for Arkansas Legal Services, drafted all necessary pleadings, conducted fact investigation, prepared for trial, went to trial		
REASON FOR LEAVING: I graduated law school		
DATES: From: 6/2011 To: 7/2011	EMPLOYER: UALR William H. Bowen School of Law Mediation Clinic	POSITION TITLE: Student Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) Little Rock, Arkansas		

HOURS PER WEEK: 15		
DUTIES: Learned how to mediate civil cases, facilitate positive discussions among parties to reach an agreed resolution		
REASON FOR LEAVING: It was a part time, summer position		
DATES: From: 8/2010 To: 12/2010	EMPLOYER: Center for Arkansas Legal Services	POSITION TITLE: Extern
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) Little Rock, Arkansas		
SUPERVISOR: Dustin Duke - Managing Attorney	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
HOURS PER WEEK: 20		
DUTIES: Drafted a variety of legal documents, interacted with clients, researched issues, attended business meetings, represented indigent clients		
REASON FOR LEAVING: It was a seasonal externship.		
DATES: From: 4/2006 To: 7/2009	EMPLOYER: Como's Italian Restaurant	POSITION TITLE: Hostess and Waitress
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) El Paso, Texas		
SUPERVISOR: Nada Aziz - Owner	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
HOURS PER WEEK: 25		
DUTIES: Provided customer service, took and fulfilled orders, answered phone calls, counted register money and tracked all transactions.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: I moved away to go to law school.		

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

TYPE: Certified Mediator	
LICENSE NUMBER:	ISSUING AGENCY: El Paso County Dispute Resolution Center
TYPE: United States Western District of Texas	
LICENSE NUMBER:	ISSUING AGENCY:

Skills

Nothing Entered For This Section

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Volunteer Experience
Candlelighters (CCF- Childhood Cancer Foundation)-- I was a camp counselor for young children that suffered from cancer and their siblings

Honors & Awards
Student Bar Association, Elected Vice President 2011-2012

Honors & Awards
Arkansas Association for Women Lawyers Student Division, Elected Vice President 2010-2011

Honors & Awards
Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity, Elected Clerk of the Rolls 2010-2011

Honors & Awards
Hispanic Law Students Association, Elected Treasurer 2010-2011

Honors & Awards
Student Bar Association, Elected Full-Time Senator 2009-2011

Honors & Awards
Awards/Scholarships: Distinguished Dean's Certificate (300+ hours of community service, 2009-2011), Dean's Certificate (2009-2011), Out of State Student Scholarship, Governor Sid McMath Scholarship, James Larrison Scholarship, Sandra Wilson Cherry Scholarship, Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity Scholarship

Honors & Awards
Golden Key International Honor Society 2007-2008

Honors & Awards
Freshmen Alpha Lambda Delta-National Academic Honor Society 2006-2007

Honors & Awards
Nestle Tollhouse National "Bake Some Love" First Place Award

Honors & Awards
Dean's List for the College of Liberal Arts; Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; Alpha Chi National College Honor Society

Professional Associations
Texas City Attorney's Association
Professional Associations
El Paso Bar Association

Professional Associations

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Professional Memberships

El Paso Women's Bar Association Member

Professional Memberships

Texas Bar College Member- "The Texas Bar College is an honorary society of lawyers and paralegals who are leaders in the Texas legal community and champions of legal education." I completed an extraordinary higher amount of Continuing Legal Education courses than what is required to be accepted into the Texas Bar College. I am always striving to enhance my knowledge to better serve the community.

Volunteer Experience

Humanitarian Coordinator- St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church (locally)

Humanitarian Coordinator for the North American Board of Antiochian Women (all of North America)

I organize and coordinate multiple charitable events and community service projects to be done locally and nationally helping those in need.

Publications

I was on the Law Review Board and an Assistant Editor. I also had a Law Review article published.

Animal Law—Greed v. Humanity: The Need for Arkansas to Regulate Commercial Breeders and Ban the Retail Sale of Cats and Dogs in Pet Stores and Over the Internet

Interests & Activities

I am an animal lover with rescue cats and dogs. I love to hike and do any outdoor adventures. I love to bake. I love to volunteer and spend time helping the less fortunate.

Honors & Awards

Honored as the "Outstanding Ex" for Chapin High School- 2023-2024.

Professional Associations

I currently sit on the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Alumni Association Board of Directors.

REFERENCES

Nothing Entered For This Section

Job Specific Supplemental Questions

1. Are you a licensed attorney in good standing?
Yes
 2. Do you have two or more years of experience in the practice of law in Texas?
Yes
 3. Are you a resident of Texas?
Yes
 4. Have you lived in El Paso during the preceding 12 months?
Yes
 5. Are you a citizen of the United States?
Yes
 6. Please provide your attorney license number and expiration date in the area provided.
[REDACTED] no expiration
-

The following terms were accepted by the applicant upon submitting the online application:

By clicking on the 'Accept' button, I hereby certify that every statement I have made in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false or incomplete answer may be grounds for not employing me or for dismissing me after I begin work. I understand that I will have to produce documentation verifying identity and employment eligibility in the U.S. I understand that I may be required to verify any and all information given on this application. I understand that this completed application is the property of the City of El Paso and will not be returned. I understand that the City of El Paso may contact prior employers and other references.

I understand that completion of this Application for Employment does not guarantee that I will be employed by the City of El Paso.

I hereby affirm that my answers to these statements and questions are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have not knowingly withheld any fact or circumstance that would, if disclosed, affect my application unfavorably.

I understand that any misrepresentation, deception, or false statement made in this Employment Application may result in my not being considered for employment, and if not discovered by the Company until after my becoming employed, is grounds for, and may result in, my immediate termination.

Application time limit: I understand that application forms are active for the length of the eligible list which is normally six months unless otherwise stated. All persons must reapply after that period.

Falsification: I understand that falsification of information listed on my application or presented to the City of El Paso can be grounds for serious reprimand or termination.

Employment testing: I understand that all required drug tests, pencil-and-paper tests, physical exams, or electronic or other tests will be used in the employment decision.

Condition of Employment: I understand that I must provide official proof of Education (transcripts, diplomas, certificates), driver's license (if required), within 3 days of being contacted with a job offer.

This application was submitted by Lauren K. Ferris on 10/18/23 12:49 PM