

Shelley Berkley, Mayor (At-Large)  
Brian Knudsen, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 1)  
Victoria Seaman (Ward 2)  
Olivia Diaz (Ward 3)  
Francis Allen-Palenske (Ward 4)  
Shondra Summers-Armstrong (Ward 5)  
Nancy E. Brune (Ward 6)



City Manager Mike Janssen  
City Attorney Jeff Dorocak  
City Clerk LuAnn D. Holmes

## City Council Agenda

Council Chambers · 495 South Main Street · Phone 702-229-6011  
City of Las Vegas Internet Address: [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

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**February 5, 2025**  
**9:00 AM**

25. Discussion for possible action regarding the appointment of an Interim Municipal Court Judge, Department 1, from the following nominees: Madilyn Cole, Amanda Pellizzari, and Matthew Walker (\$214,849 - General Fund)

Minutes:

VINCE ZAMORA, Human Resources Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide an update regarding the appointment of an Interim Municipal Court Judge. With the retirement of Municipal Court Chief Judge CYNTHIA LEUNG, City Charter Section 1.160 states a vacancy is required to be filled by a majority vote within 30 days. At the December 4, 2024 City Council meeting, the City Council directed Human Resources to conduct an open recruitment to source candidates for the vacancy. MR. ZAMORA reviewed the recruitment process, identified the representatives that made up the interview panel, and displayed the names of all applicants who were interviewed. On January 30, 2025, five Councilmembers interviewed the top three candidates and ranked them as follows: MATTHEW WALKER, AMANDA PELLIZZARI, and MADILYN COLE.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ thanked MR. ZAMORA for summarizing the process and explained that the intent of the Council was to have the initial vetting committee set up to allow for members of the community to evaluate the finalists. She thanked the applicants for applying and opined it was an important role in the City to ensure justice is rendered to individuals coming before the court. The Councilwoman stated that the applicant they chose identified a need within the court system, created a program without funding, and achieved such success that funding was now allocated to support the program.

Subsequent to the vote, MR. WALKER thanked the Council and Mayor for their vote and stated that it was an honor to be given the opportunity to have a unique impact on the public. MAYOR BERKLEY opined all three finalists would have made wonderful Municipal Court Judges, congratulated MR. WALKER, and said she looked forward to working with him.

See Item 7 for related discussion.

Motion made by Olivia Diaz to Approve the appointment of Matthew Walker

Passed For: 5; Against: 2; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Nancy Brune, Victoria Seaman, Olivia Diaz, Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske; Against-Shelley Berkley, Shondra Summers-Armstrong;



**AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE**  
**City Council**  
**Meeting of: February 5, 2025**

Agenda Item No.:  
**25**

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**DEPARTMENT: City Manager**  
**DIRECTOR: Mike Janssen**

**DISCUSSION**

**SUBJECT:**

Discussion for possible action regarding the appointment of an Interim Municipal Court Judge, Department 1, from the following nominees: Madilyn Cole, Amanda Pellizzari, and Matthew Walker (\$214,849 - General Fund)

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Budget Funds Available  
Amount: \$214,849 + Benefits  
Funding Source: General Fund  
Dept./Division: Municipal Court

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:**

Department 1 Municipal Court Chief Judge Cynthia S. Leung retired effective January 15, 2025. Pursuant to Section 1.160 of the Las Vegas City Charter, any vacancy in the office of Mayor, Council Member, or Municipal Judge must be filled by a majority vote of the full City Council within 30 days of the vacancy. Following directions from the Mayor and City Council at the December 4, 2024 Council Meeting, Human Resources conducted an open recruitment for the Interim Municipal Court Judge position. A panel consisting of Mayor/Council designees and representatives from the City Attorney's Office, Human Resources, and Municipal Court conducted the initial round of interviews. The top three candidates – Madilyn Cole, Amanda Pellizzari, and Matthew Walker – were advanced to a second round of interviews with participating Councilmembers, which concluded on January 30, 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Appointment of a qualified individual to fill the seat of Municipal Court Judge Department 1 until the 2026 election cycle, when the seat will be up for election to fill the remainder of the term ending in 2028.

**BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:**

None