



Legislation Text

File #: 08-0569, **Version:** 1

Resolution to Approve the Appointment of M. Colleen Currie to the Office of Magistrate of the 15th Judicial District Court

Magistrate Michael J. Gatti of the 15th Judicial District Court has submitted his resignation effective Thursday, July 31, 2008, after six years of service to the City of Ann Arbor.

Magistrate Gatti is responsible for arraigning and sentencing persons who plead guilty or no contest to violations of certain state laws and local ordinances, issues warrants for searches and arrests, sets bail and accepts bonds, presides over civil infraction admissions, admissions with explanations and informal hearings, small claims litigation, and assists the judges of the 15th Judicial District Court as permitted by law. Magistrate Gatti performs approximately 4,000 arraignments, hears approximately 1,000 small claims cases, and accepts pleas on approximately 4,500 traffic violations annually, significantly freeing the District judges' dockets to hear contested issues, to conduct trials and to perform other judicial obligations not delegatable to the magistrate.

The 15th Judicial District Court is permitted by MCL 600.8501(2) to appoint a district court magistrate. MCL 600.8501(2) also requires that the appointment of the district court magistrate be approved by the City of Ann Arbor.

Accordingly, the 15th Judicial District Court requests that the Ann Arbor City Council approve the appointment of M. Colleen Currie to the office of Magistrate in the 15th Judicial District Court to succeed Magistrate Michael J. Gatti.

Prepared by: Keith Zeisloft, Court Administrator, 15th Judicial District Court

Approved by: Roger Fraser, City Administrator

Whereas, The Magistrate of the 15th Judicial District presides over approximately 9,500 cases per year, accepts pleas, arraigns defendants, issues search and arrest warrants, sets bail and bond and in other ways authorized by statute assists the judges of the 15th Judicial District Court;

Whereas, The Magistrate of the 15th Judicial District Court is necessary for the equitable, effective and efficient administration of justice;

Whereas, MCL 600.8501(2) authorizes Chief Judge of the 15th Judicial District to appoint one or more magistrates;

Whereas, MCL 600.8501(2) further requires approval by the Ann Arbor City Council of the appointment to the office of Magistrate;

Whereas, Magistrate Michael J. Gatti of the 15th Judicial District Court has resigned effective July 31, 2008; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Julie Creal has appointed M. Colleen Currie to the office of Magistrate in the 15th Judicial District to succeed Magistrate Gatti;

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor City Council approve the appointment of M. Colleen Currie by Chief Judge Julie Creal to the office of Magistrate in the 15th Judicial District effective this date.