City of Smyrna

City of Smyrna
City Hall
2800 King Street
Smyrna, GA 30080
770-434-6600
www.smyrnacity.com

Issue Sheet

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$ IMPACT:

Agenda Title:
Approval of a budget amendment for the increase in salary for Chief Judge Phyllis Gingrey Collins for additional Court arraignment days for Municipal Traffic Court as well as the addition of Environmental Court responsibilities (beginning April 1, 2021) and the increase in salary for Municipal / Environmental Court Solicitor Tim Williams for part time to full time status, effective March 8, 2021.

ISSUE AND BACKGROUND:
Court Services Municipal Court has experienced a tremendous volume increase due in 2020 to the addition of PD's traffic enforcement unit as well as the increased DUI citations which will result in the need for an additional Court arraignment day. Additionally, Environmental Court was originally set up under the Chief Municipal Judge and in 2008, the Court was separated and an Environmental Court Judge assigned. COVID has brought to light the need for simplifying procedures for staff and especially the citizens and defendants we serve through Municipal Traffic Court and Environmental Court. It is because of this need for simplicity and better procedure, staff is requesting that Environmental Court be restructured under the Chief Municipal Judge Phyllis Gingrey Collins as it was prior to the decision to separate the two Courts. These stated needs will result in a proposed request for increase to both Judge Collins salary and Solicitor Tim Williams Salary as shown on the attachment.

RECOMMENDATION / REQUESTED ACTION: The Court Services and the Finance Directors respectfully request approval of a budget amendment for the increase in salary for Chief Judge Phyllis Gingrey Collins for additional Court arraignment days for Municipal Traffic Court as well as the addition of Environmental Court responsibilities (beginning April 1, 2021) and the increase in salary for Municipal / Environmental Court Solicitor Tim Williams for part time to full time status, effective March 8, 2021.