

CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS MEETING AGENDA ITEM

NUMBER: 27.

SUBJECT:

Introduce Ordinance No. 3060, Amending Chapter 6 of Title 2 of the Municipal Code to Expand the Number of Departments of the North Las Vegas Municipal Court from One to Two; Repealing Ordinance No. 2786 and Providing for Other Matters Properly Relating Thereto. (Citywide) (Set Final Action for February 3, 2021)

REQUESTED BY:

Ryann Juden, City Manager

WARD:

Citywide

RECOMMENDATION OR RECOMMEND MOTION:

That the City Council introduce Ordinance No. 3060 on January 20, 2021 and pass and adopt Ordinance No. 3060 on February 3, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT: Yes

AMOUNT: \$312,000

EXPLANATION: Full-time Judge's salary and benefits (\$260,000). Public Defender (\$52,000). No additional staff is anticipated at this time. Net cost is \$252,000 (savings of \$60,000 currently funded for Traffic Judge Pro Tem).

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

N/A

STAFF COMMENTS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On December 1, 2004, the North Las Vegas City Council passed Ordinance No. 2059, an ordinance relating to the North Las Vegas Municipal Court, Amending Title 2 by adding a new chapter 2.06 to the Municipal Code of North Las Vegas to expand the number of departments of the North Las Vegas Municipal Court from one to two.

On December 21, 2016, the North Las Vegas City Council passed Ordinance No. 2786, to reduce the number of judicial departments from two to one effective July 1, 2017. The caseload had decreased over several years, and one judicial officer had been handling the majority of cases due to the absence of the other judge. The court agreed that one department was sufficient at the time.

At the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, the City requested a bill to change the City's Charter to allow for hearing masters to assist with traffic and low-level misdemeanors. SB464 did not pass. Currently, the Municipal Court receives assistance with handling traffic cases from a judge pro tempore. Up until the pandemic, the Court's caseload had been increasing.

The City opened the North Las Vegas Community Correctional Center (CCC) in 2020. Some of the goals in

CIP No.	Related Item:	
LIST CITY COUNCIL GOAL(S): Quality Municipal Services		
PREPARED BY:	Respectfully Submitted	MEETING DATE: 1/20/2021
Ryann Juden City Manager	Ryann Juden City Manager	

opening the CCC were to improve rehabilitation and reduce recidivism for the benefit of the City. The Municipal Court plays an integral part in achieving these goals and presented to Council on January 6, 2021, the idea of creating a specialty court program in the Municipal Court to compliment the positive mission of the CCC. The Municipal Court indicated that a second department of the Court would allow for such a program to be successful. A new municipal court department would give the Municipal Court a greater ability to provide diversionary programs and services to reduce recidivism, promote rehabilitation of lower-level offenders, and improve the quality of life in the City. A specialty court would also cut down the criminal caseload in the other department.

Staff recommends that the City Council introduce Ordinance No. 3060 on January 20, 2021 and pass and adopt Ordinance No. 3060 on February 3, 2021.