



RESOLUTION NO. 41829

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR IBSEN

2 A RESOLUTION relating to Tacoma Municipal Court; appointing Sergio Flores
3 to fill the vacant judicial position as municipal court Judge for Department
4 No. 2, retroactive to January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, until
5 a successor is elected and qualified under the State of Washington
6 General Election in 2026.

7 WHEREAS on Friday, November 21, 2025, Municipal Court Judge Drew
8 Henke announced her retirement effective December 31, 2025, which would
9 leave the Department No. 2 seat vacant with an unexpired term ending
10 December 31, 2026, and

11 WHEREAS Washington State law allows the City to determine what process
12 it wants to use to fill a vacant judicial position, and to list qualifications an
13 appointment must have, such as the individual must be an attorney and live in
14 Pierce County on the date of appointment, and

15 WHEREAS there is currently not an established process for appointing a
16 judge to the Tacoma Municipal Court, and only twice before has the City Council
17 made this appointment, and

18 WHEREAS in 1994, the City Council passed Resolution No. 32834 asking
19 the local bar association to review the list of candidates for judicial appointment and
20 make recommendations, after which the full City Council then interviewed the
21 finalists and made a selection, and

22 WHEREAS in 2022, the City Council passed Resolution No. 40923 in which
23 a quicker process was proposed by former Mayor Woodards to consider a current
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1 Commissioner of the Municipal Court with vast experience for the vacant position
2 rather than a prolonged process, and

3 WHEREAS for this appointment, former Mayor Woodards asked the City
4 Council to begin a process in December of 2025 to be proactive and have a
5 candidate to consider for the first City Council meeting following the formal
6 vacancy in the position, and

7 WHEREAS the process asked those interested in the position to submit
8 application materials to the City Clerk, who then compiled candidates and sent
9 them to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for interviews and
10 selection of two-to-three candidates for the former Mayor's consideration, and

11 WHEREAS former Mayor Woodards interviewed two finalists for the
12 appointment, and after reviewing materials and meeting with candidates,
13 recommended Sergio Flores for consideration for this appointment, and

14 WHEREAS Mayor-elect Ibsen has reviewed and concurs in the
15 recommendation of former Mayor Woodards for consideration of Sergio Flores for
16 this appointment, and

17 WHEREAS Mr. Flores has extensive and well-rounded experience as both a
18 prosecutor and judge pro tempore, having served as a Judge Pro Tempore in
19 Tacoma Municipal Court since September 2022, and in Pierce County District
20 Court since January 2023, and

21 WHEREAS Mr. Flores has demonstrated a calm demeanor, strong command
22 of the law, and a consistent commitment to fair and just outcomes, and



1 WHEREAS previously, as a Prosecuting Attorney with the City of Auburn,
2 Mr. Flores was instrumental in the creation of the Auburn Community Court which
3 is now a model for jurisdictions across the region, including the City, showing
4 particular strength in therapeutic and problem-solving court approaches, and
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6 WHEREAS over the past three years, Mr. Flores has presided over all
7 Tacoma Municipal Court dockets, including therapeutic courts, and is fully prepared
8 to assume the responsibilities of Department No. 2 on the first day of his
9 appointment, and

10 WHEREAS if appointed, Mr. Flores would begin as soon as possible and
11 serve through the fall until the conclusion of the State of Washington General
12 Election process and the new Judge takes office; Now, Therefore,

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1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:
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3 That Sergio Flores is appointed to fill the vacant judicial position as
4 Municipal Court Judge for Department No. 2, retroactive to January 1, 2026,
5 through December 31, 2026, until a successor is elected and qualified under the
6 State of Washington General Election in 2026.

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8 Adopted _____

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10 Attest:
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13 City Clerk
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15 Approved as to form:
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17 City Attorney
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Mayor