

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-O-___

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE DULY ELECTED MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE TO INCLUDE A BASE SALARY OF \$130,000 FOR A FIRST TERM WITH A 3% COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT COMPOUNDED ANNUALLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM AND \$146,000 AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SECOND TERM WITH A 3% COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT COMPOUNDED ANNUALLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM. PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo is a Home Rule City acting under its Charter adopted by the electorate under Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and Chapter 9 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2017-O-132 requires the compensation of the presiding municipal court judge to be established by a separate ordinance; and

WHEREAS, compensation for the duly elected Municipal Court Judge must remain competitive with the prevailing market rates for the position in other comparable cities; and

WHEREAS, cost of living adjustments are typically utilized to keep up with inflation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1.

A. SALARY OF ELECTED MUNICIPAL JUDGE

1. Base Salary Determinations

- a. The base salary for the first year of the first term of the Elected Municipal Judge shall be set at \$130,000 before the commencement of the first term.
- b. A three percent (3%) percent cost of living adjustment shall be compounded annually and added to the base salary for the remainder of the term.

2. Term-Based Salary Adjustments

- a. The base salary for the first year of the second term the Elected Municipal Judge serves is \$146,000 annually.
- b. A three percent (3%) cost of living adjustment shall be compounded annually and added to the base salary for the remainder of the term.

B. REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT

1. Periodic Review

- a. The salary of the Elected Municipal Court Judge shall be reviewed at the end of each term to ensure competitiveness with the prevailing market rates for similar positions in comparable cities or municipalities.

2. Adjustment Procedures

- a. The City Council may recommend adjustments to the base salary or cost of living, subject to a public hearing and a majority vote, to ensure alignment with market trends and fiscal responsibility.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section 3. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this ordinance are severable. If any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this ordinance, since the City Council would have enacted the same without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Section 4. The City Secretary of the City of Laredo is hereby directed to publish the proposed Ordinance as required by Section 2.09 of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall become effective sixty days from the public hearing date.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS
_____DAY IN _____2024.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

**MARIO MALDONADO
CITY SECRETARY**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**DOANH “ZONE” T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY**