

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-800**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CEDAR HILL, TEXAS, REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE 2023-796; ESTABLISHING THE CEDAR HILL MUNICIPAL COURT AS A MUNICIPAL COURT OF RECORD; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERANCE CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION.**

WHEREAS, Chapter 30 of the Texas Government Code authorizes the City to establish its municipal court as a municipal court of record; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary to establish a municipal court of record to provide a more just and efficient disposition of cases arising in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to provide for a more effective means to enforce the laws of the State of Texas and the ordinances of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council previously adopted Ordinance No. 2023-796 providing for the establishment of the Cedar Hill Municipal Court of Record No. 1; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary and in the best interest of the citizens of Cedar Hill to repeal Ordinance No. 2023-796 and replace it with the provisions of this Ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR HILL, TEXAS, THAT:**

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 2023-796 is hereby repealed and replaced with the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby establishes the Cedar Hill Municipal Court as a municipal court of record to provide a more efficient disposition of cases arising in the City of Cedar Hill and to enforce the

ordinances of the City more effectively. The municipal court shall become a court of record from and after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2024, and shall be known as Cedar Hill Municipal Court of Record No. 1. All additional municipal courts of record established by the City Council in the future shall bear the same name but sequentially numbered.

SECTION 3. The Cedar Hill Municipal Court of Record No. 1 is established pursuant to the authority granted in Chapter 30 of the Texas Government Code. The provisions set forth therein are hereby adopted to govern the operation of said municipal court of record.

SECTION 4. The Municipal Court of Record No. 1 is specifically granted all the jurisdictional powers set forth in Section 30.00005 of the Texas Government Code and all other jurisdictional authority as may be otherwise provided by law.

SECTION 5. The Municipal Court of Record shall be presided over by a municipal judge who shall be appointed by the City Council for a term of two (2) years. The municipal judge must be a licensed attorney in good standing in the State of Texas, must have two or more years of experience in the practice of law in Texas, and must be a citizen of the United States and of the State of Texas. There is not a city or county residency requirement for the judge of the Municipal Court of Record.

SECTION 6. The municipal judge shall be the presiding judge of the Cedar Hill Municipal Court of Record No. 1. The City Council may appoint one or more similarly qualified persons to serve as an alternate municipal judge to serve when the municipal judge is temporarily absent or unable to serve for any reason.

SECTION 7. If any other Ordinance of the City of Cedar Hill, Texas, heretofore enacted is found to conflict with the provisions of the Ordinance, this Ordinance shall prevail.

SECTION 8. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such shall be deemed to be a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding will not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

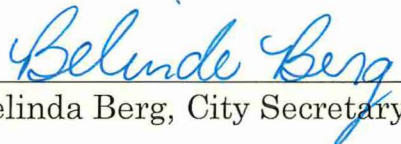
SECTION 9. This ordinance shall take effect January 1, 2024.

SECTION 10. The City Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to cause publication of the descriptive caption hereof as an alternative method of publication as provided by law.


**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Cedar Hill, Texas, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

  
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Stephen Mason, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Belinda Berg, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Ron G. MacFarlane, Jr., City Attorney