

# **City of Sugar Land**

**Ordinance No. 2194  
Municipal Court of Record  
Kendra Beverly**

# Prior Discussions

- **March 4, 2019**
  - **Charter Review Commission recommended City Council enact ordinance to become a Municipal Court of Record**
- **June 25, 2019 & January 28, 2020**
  - **City Council Workshop on Charter Review Commission recommendations**
- **February 28, 2020**
  - **Memorandum summarizing the recommendations in lieu of an additional workshop**

# **What is a Court of Record**

- **There are approx. 180 Municipal Courts of Record in Texas**
- **Provides residents and defendants with more just and efficient disposition of cases in the City**
- **Provide enhanced enforcement of City Ordinances**
- **Integrity of proceedings improved with recording of proceedings**
- **Trials governed by the Code of Criminal Procedures and Rules of Appellate Procedure**

# Requirements

- **Controlled by Chapter 30, Government Code**
- **Ordinance establishing court of record**
- **Judge must be licensed attorney**
  - **2 or more years experience**
- **Court reporter or record proceedings**
- **New court seal**



# **Advantages of Court of Record**

- **Enhanced enforcement of city ordinances**
- **Increased jurisdiction for cases under LGC Ch. 54 & 214**
  - **Dangerous building cases**
- **Reduce number of appeals to county**
- **City retains fines on affirmative judgment of appeal**

# Impacts to the Court

- **Cost of recording device**
  - **Planned and budgeted in FY20**
  - **Device installed in February**
- **Costs of transcription for defendants**

# **Recommendation**

- **Staff recommends approval of Ordinance No. 2194**
  - **Establishing Sugar Land Municipal Court as a Court of Record**
  - **Setting effective date of July 1, 2020**
- **Upon approval, notices will be posted**

**Questions?**