



MEMORANDUM

To: **Mayor and City Council**

Through: Douglas G. Faseler, City Manager

From: Andy Quittner, City Attorney *AQ*

Date: January 11, 2016

Re: **Appointments to the Juvenile Truancy Committee**

During the 2015 legislative session a rather complex bill was passed that decriminalized truancy cases and established new procedures, both for courts and school districts, for handling children who have failed to attend school. In formulating new procedures for the courts the legislature adopted some procedures that were not fully compatible with general court operations. Realizing that there might be problems, the legislature directed that each county form a Juvenile Truancy Committee to develop uniform truancy policies to be applied within the county.

In some counties, there has been a push to have juvenile cases heard in municipal courts. For many cities this would be a potential large addition of cases (and work) with no funds to cover the additional staff and staff time (the only funding is a \$50 fee, but it is only assessed if a case is actually tried). In the past Judge Hunter has heard the truancy cases arising from the Seguin Independent School District.

The Mayor of each city with a municipal court must appoint a person to the Juvenile Truancy Committee and may appoint a second person if advisable. Given the circumstances it is recommended that two persons be appointed: Landra Solansky, Court Administrator, and Andrew Quittner, City Attorney.