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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Judge Harrison Resigns from City of Hobbs Municipal Court**

Hobbs Municipal Judge Benjamin Harrison has announced his resignation/retirement from the Hobbs Municipal Court, effective Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. After living in Hobbs for 38 years, making a career of serving the community through public service, and serving as judge since 2010, Judge Harrison and his wife have made the difficult decision to move closer to family in Texas.

Judge Harrison stated, "It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to have been elected by the citizens of Hobbs for three consecutive terms as Municipal Judge. I have lived in Hobbs for about 38 years. I have found Hobbs to be an outstanding place to live. I truly love Hobbs and have no doubt we will miss our church family at Temple Baptist Church, but we will also miss all the friends we have been blessed with in this community."

Acting City Manager Manny Gomez stated, "The City of Hobbs is privileged to have had Judge Harrison serve as Municipal Judge for almost 10 years. His wisdom and decisiveness have served the community of Hobbs well. The City Commission and City of Hobbs organization are grateful for his service. We wish him and his family success and happiness in their time together."

Judge Harrison leaves office with just over two years remaining of his four-year term. The Hobbs Municipal Code Section 2.12.010(D) states, "If a vacancy occurs during the term of the Municipal Judge, the City Commission may appoint a duly qualified person to serve until the next regular municipal election." The Hobbs Municipal Charter requires that the City Commission appoint an individual to fill the vacant office within thirty (30) days of vacancy. The appointed individual will serve until the next Municipal Election, which is scheduled for March 2020. Following the election, the elected candidate would fulfill the remaining two years of the office's original term.

The City of Hobbs will publish a vacancy notice on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The vacancy will close on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and a Special Meeting to appoint the next Municipal Judge is tentatively scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. A candidate for Municipal Judge: 1) Shall be a resident of the City; 2) Shall be a qualified elector; and 3) Shall have graduated from high school or have attained the equivalent of a high school education. Any interested individual who meets the above qualifications should hand-deliver a resume and letter of interest to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, located at 200 East Broadway, Hobbs, New Mexico, on or before 5:00 p.m., September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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