

January 13, 2017  
For Immediate Release  
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## **Whitlock Appointed as Interim Municipal Judge**

Carlsbad City Council, in a special Jan. 13, 2017, meeting, approved Mayor Dale Janway's appointment of Janell Whitlock to serve as Interim Municipal Judge. Whitlock will temporarily fill in for Municipal Judge Janet Ellis, who has taken a leave of absence for personal reasons.

"We very much hope Judge Ellis will be back soon," Janway stated. "In the meantime, we sincerely appreciate Councilwoman Whitlock's willingness to step forward to assist our community, which she has done time and time again throughout her career."

Whitlock serves on Carlsbad City Council as a representative of Ward 4. As an Interim Municipal Judge, she will not have to resign from her position with city council, but she will abstain from all votes related to the municipal court, including Friday's appointment.

Whitlock previously served with the Carlsbad Municipal Court for 21 ½ years, which included serving as a relief judge, an appointed judge, and then three terms as elected judge. In addition to her ongoing term with Carlsbad's City Council, she is also the retirement coordinator for the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. She has also previously served on the Eddy County Commission.

Ellis, previously a Carlsbad attorney and prosecutor with the District Attorney's Office, was elected to Carlsbad Municipal Court in March of 2016.

"It is Judge Ellis's court, and I will just be filling in," Whitlock stressed.

Carlsbad Municipal Court is now located at the Carlsbad City Hall Annex, 114 S. Halagueno St.