



**TO:** Mayor Shaun Sipma  
Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Ashley E. Beall, Municipal Judge

**DATE:** August 20, 2018

**SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL COURT MARRIAGES &  
POSSIBLE CHANGE TO MUNICIPAL COURT SCHEDULE**

**I. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

*Since becoming municipal judge, I have received many requests to perform marriages. This is not a duty of municipal judge, but rather an ability conferred upon becoming a judge.*

*Most requests are to have the marriage ceremony in the municipal courtroom in the weekday afternoon hours.*

*I am seeking the approval of the city council to utilize the municipal courtroom to conduct marriage ceremonies. My understanding is that it is a public facility; however, if the city council had any objection to the courtroom being used for such, I would honor that objection.*

**II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS**

*Ashley E. Beall, Municipal Judge, 701-340-2316 or 701-852-0111.*

**III. DESCRIPTION**

*See above...*

**IV. IMPACT:**

**A. Strategic Impact:**

*I think the performance of marriage ceremonies in the municipal courtroom provides a nice option for Minot residents who are desirous of being married, but for various reasons are unable to plan and put on a traditional wedding (for example, an impending deployment, lack of financial resources, etc.).*

**B. Service/Delivery Impact:**

*I think that the provision of this service has very little impact on municipal court resources/staff, but I do think that it could increase general goodwill towards, and public perception of, the municipal court.*

**C. Fiscal Impact:**

*There should be no fiscal impact due to provision of this service. Municipal Court staff are fielding the calls regardless and the municipal court is open, lights on, functioning, already at the times in question.*

Project Costs

N/A

Project Funding

N/A

**V. ALTERNATIVES**

*I could perform the marriage ceremonies at a different public or private venue.*

**VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

N/A

**VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

***\*\*\*I would also like to put it on everyone's radar that I am contemplating a change to the municipal court schedule, with significant input from the City Attorneys, Municipal Court Staff, and other municipal judges in similarly-situated communities. Any change in schedule would be made after careful consideration to the schedules and needs of all affected departments and would not go into effect until after the new year.\*\*\****