



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Municipal Court Judge Will Not Seek Reappointment

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, July 3, 2013 – Municipal Court Judge Kathryn Carruthers notified City Manager Doug Schulze that she will not seek reappointment when her four-year term ends on December 31.

Judge Carruthers was first appointed as the City’s municipal court judge in 2006, and was reappointed in 2009. Her letter to City Manager Schulze is attached.

“I thank Judge Carruthers for her service to the citizens of Bainbridge Island,” said City Manager Schulze. “I appreciate her dedication to the delivery of fair and equal justice, and wish her the best in her future.”

The City will review the position’s workload prior to commencing a selection process in the fall. Judge Carruthers has offered to assist with the transition to her successor.

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July 2, 2013

Doug Schulze
City Manager
City of Bainbridge Island

Dear Mr. Schulze,

I am writing to advise you and the City that I will not be seeking reappointment as Bainbridge Island's Municipal Court Judge for the next 4 year term commencing Jan 1, 2014. It has been difficult decision, but given the undeniable fact that my life does not have an unlimited term, it is time for me to pursue other opportunities, roles and activities in the Community.

I have valued my tenure as Bainbridge's Municipal Court Judge, and am deeply humbled by the trust and confidence that the people of Bainbridge Island placed in me over the past 7 years. I am particularly grateful for the Community's overwhelming expression of support to retain the Municipal Court on Bainbridge Island so that those with the least means can seek protection from abuse or harassment without unnecessary burdens of cost and time travelling to an off-Island courthouse. Despite being in the throes of the worst economic crash of our lifetimes, the Community also stepped forward in 2011 to donate over \$40,000 of significant health, safety, and security improvements for the Court. I know of no other community that has so generously cared for its judicial branch of government.

I will be forever grateful for the friendship and dedicated service of my staff, all of whom have been with me since I was first appointed to this position in 2006. Every day, they go far beyond what is necessary to ensure that the Court is a safe, accessible and fair forum for everyone coming through our doors. I am confident they will continue to do so.

I will serve out my current term in 2013, and will assist you in any way I can in the selection of, and transition to, my successor. I will also take these next months to consider other professional options, and on completion of my term, I plan to re-engage with Bainbridge Island's vital nonprofit organizations and to spend more time with my family, friends and grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Kathryn M. Carruthers
Municipal Court Judge