



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 17, 2016

The Public Safety Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on March 17, 2016 at 9:34 a.m.

### COMMITTEE PRESENT

Alex Finter, Chairman  
Dennis Kavanaugh

### COMMITTEE ABSENT

Christopher Glover

### STAFF PRESENT

John Pombier  
Alfred Smith  
Dee Ann Mickelsen

Chairman Finter excused Committeemember Glover from the entire meeting.

#### 1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

#### 2-a. Hear a presentation and discuss an update on the Mesa Municipal Court's new Rule 11 process.

Municipal Court Administrator Paul Thomas introduced Court Supervisor Nancy Bushaw, Deputy Court Administrator Janie Moreno and Court Prosecutor John Belatti, who were prepared to address the Committee.

Mr. Thomas provided a brief background and displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) that highlighted the proposed changes to Rule 11 competency evaluation process. He reported that the proposal was submitted to the Arizona Supreme Court in January 2015 and approved in November 2015.

Mr. Thomas reported that the proposal was to provide defendants with mental health assistance by determining competency to stand trial. He indicated that the initial process included local pre-evaluation assessments, and if the doctor determined a mental disability it would require further evaluation by Maricopa Superior Court. He reported a 40% no-show rate for mental health appointments that included local and state appointments. He added that once the assessments were being conducted in the Mesa Court facility, the number of no-shows decreased to 5%.

Mr. Thomas, in addition, stated that the court was still experiencing delays in receiving final competency determinations from the Superior Court level, which prompted the Rule 11 proposal

to conduct the process locally. He stated that the proposal was presented to several committees at the Supreme Court, lower courts and the Arizona Judicial Council.

Mr. Thomas highlighted the main categories of the proposal as follows:

- Authorize municipal or justice court judges to resolve the Rule 11 competency matters locally as Pro-tems in Superior Court
- Utilize doctors on the approved Superior Court list
- Judicial action remains as a Superior Court matter (no change in jurisdiction)

Mr. Thomas displayed a timeline of the previous process (See Page 3 of Attachment 1), which he indicated was complicated and costly. He also stated that most defendants had trouble reporting to the courts, which eventually resulted in warrants. He added that fees associated with each defendant included payments for two doctors, as well as Superior Court fees.

Mr. Thomas, in addition, displayed a chart highlighting the new process and reported a reduction in the administrative process from 6 months to 45 days. He informed the Committee that the court has bypassed the pre-screening process and instituted a procedure to utilize one doctor and conduct one full evaluation. He added that if there was no resolution after the first evaluation, then the court would seek a second opinion.

Mr. Thomas informed the Committee that the motion process, the transfers to Superior Court and second evaluations were eliminated to save on cost. He added that there is currently two doctors alternating weeks. He commented that changing the court process is not easy, but he argued to the Supreme Court and various committees that misdemeanor cases should remain at the local level to better utilize local resources, similar to the Veteran's Court. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Thomas concluded the presentation and highlighted additional benefits as follows:

- Greatly improved service to defendants and the public
- Significantly reduced case processing times
- Radically reduced no-show rates
- Improved case management
- Significant cost savings
- Excellent response to increasing mental health demands
- "Access to Justice" fulfilled

Mr. Belatti continued with the presentation and expressed his enthusiasm to be part of the pilot program. He noted that although the project was implemented by Mesa Municipal Court, the Supreme Court has approved and is endorsing a statewide project. He pointed out that the benefits not only expedite the treatment for the defendants, but also help victims receive a more timely resolution, eliminates the defendant no-shows to the courts, and saves time and expense for attorneys. He reported that one advantage of the project is that staff can now finish a court schedule in less time.

Committeemember Kavanaugh commented that as a veteran of the Supreme Court Committee, he understands the difficulty in implementing project changes. He noted that the City is very

proud of such efforts. He added that due to staff's exemplary work, the City's Municipal Court system is regarded as the best in Arizona and in the country.

Chairman Finter thanked staff for their continuous innovative programs and cooperative partnerships.

Chairman Finter thanked staff for the presentation.

2-b. Hear a presentation and discuss the process of the Mesa Fire and Medical Regional Dispatch Center and Emergency Operations Center.

Fire Chief Harry Beck addressed the Committee and introduced City Engineer Beth Huning and Senior Civil Engineer Dave Wilkins, who were prepared to address the Committee.

Chief Beck complimented the Mesa Municipal Court staff and briefly spoke in support of agenda item 2-a (Mesa Municipal Court's new Rule 11 process). He stated that the project not only improves service to the people suffering from mental health issues, but also relieves Fire, Medical and Police services, which is another cost savings factor. He stated that Mr. Thomas and his staff should be recognized for an outstanding job.

Mr. Wilkins displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 2**) and provided a brief project status on the Mesa Fire and Medical Regional Dispatch Center and Emergency Operations Center. He reported that staff continue to meet the schedule requirements and displayed a project timeline indicating completed and pending milestones. (See Page 2 of Attachment 2) He reported that since the last meeting in January, staff has been working hard and completed the concept plan on February 25<sup>th</sup>. He added that the project is currently on the construction phase and is still on schedule with the ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Wilkins, in addition, illustrated the floor plan (See Page 3 of Attachment 2) and indicated that there were minor changes. He pointed out that the shaded area on the floor plan demonstrates the changes to add raised floors.

Chairman Finter thanked staff for the presentation.

2-c. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide a recommendation on an update on the police-related towing services contract.

(This item was not discussed by the Council.)

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

abg  
(attachments – 2)

# Mesa Municipal Court

## Proposal to Resolve Rule 11 Competency Determinations in Limited Jurisdiction Courts

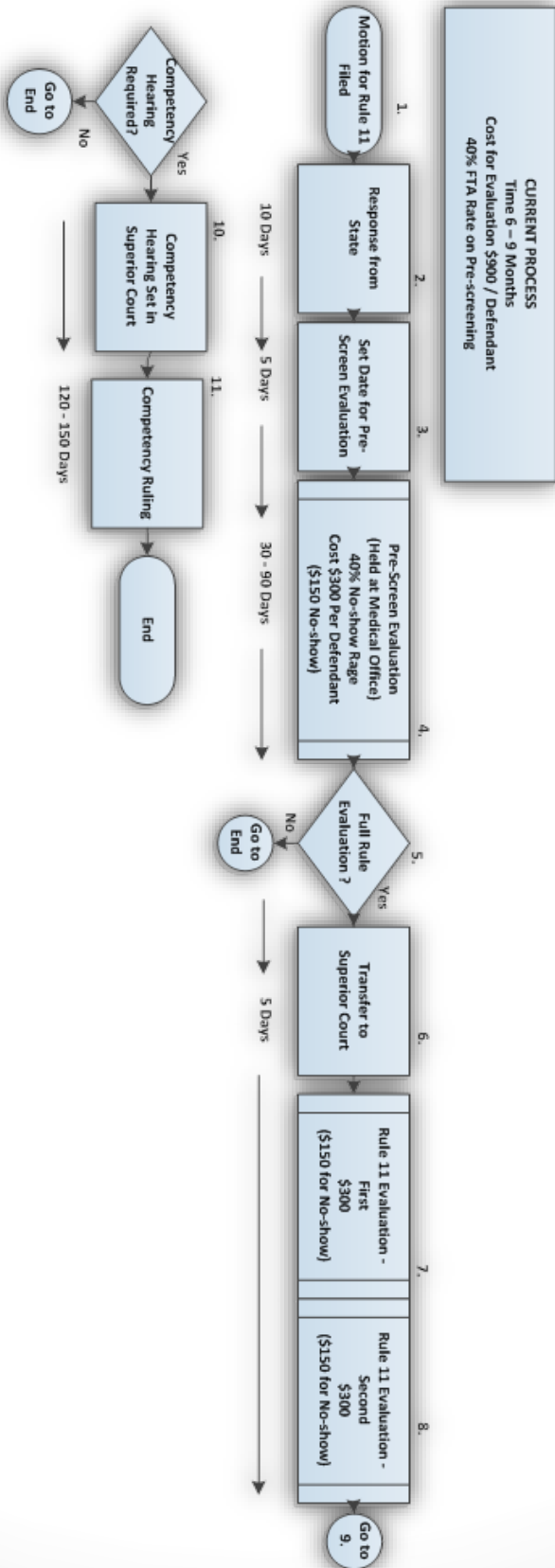
Proposed to Arizona Supreme Court Jan 2015 / Approved Nov 2015 / Implemented Feb 2016

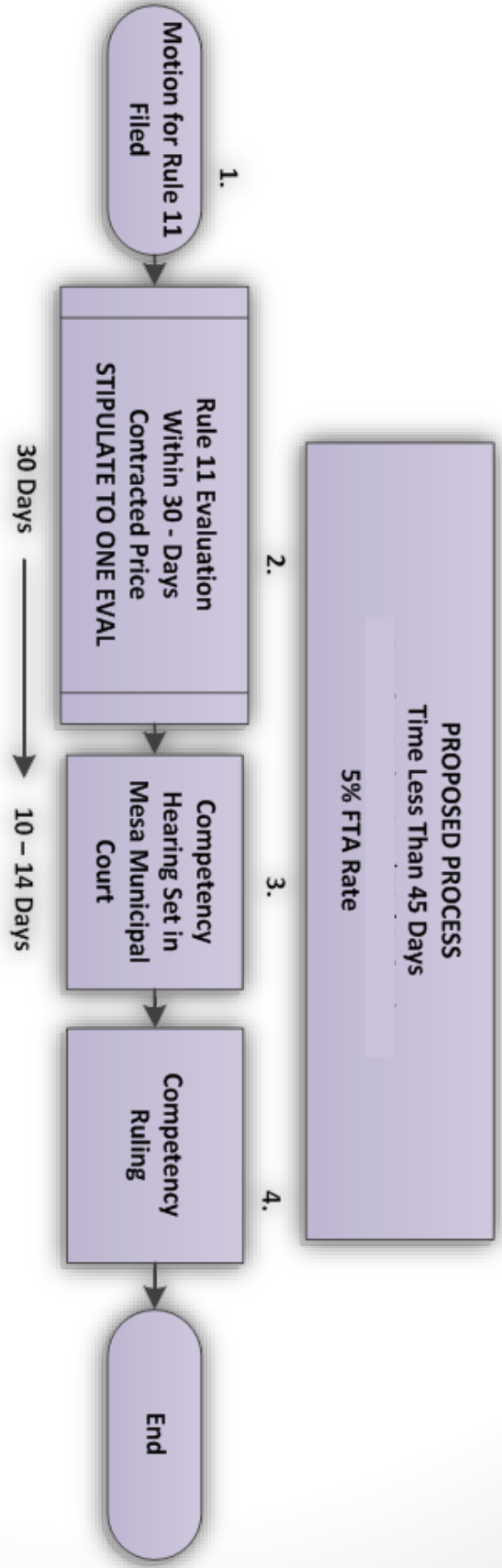


# THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to facilitate the Rule 11 competency evaluation and subsequent ruling at the local court level.

- A. Authorize municipal or justice court judges to resolve the Rule 11 competency matters locally as Pro-tems in Superior Court
- B. Utilize doctors on the approved Superior Court list
- C. Judicial action remains as a Superior Court matter (no change in jurisdiction)





- Eliminated the motion process with an Administrative Order
- Eliminated the Pre-screening process
- Eliminated the transfer to superior court
- Eliminated a second evaluation
- Reduced the failure to appear rate



# BENEFITS

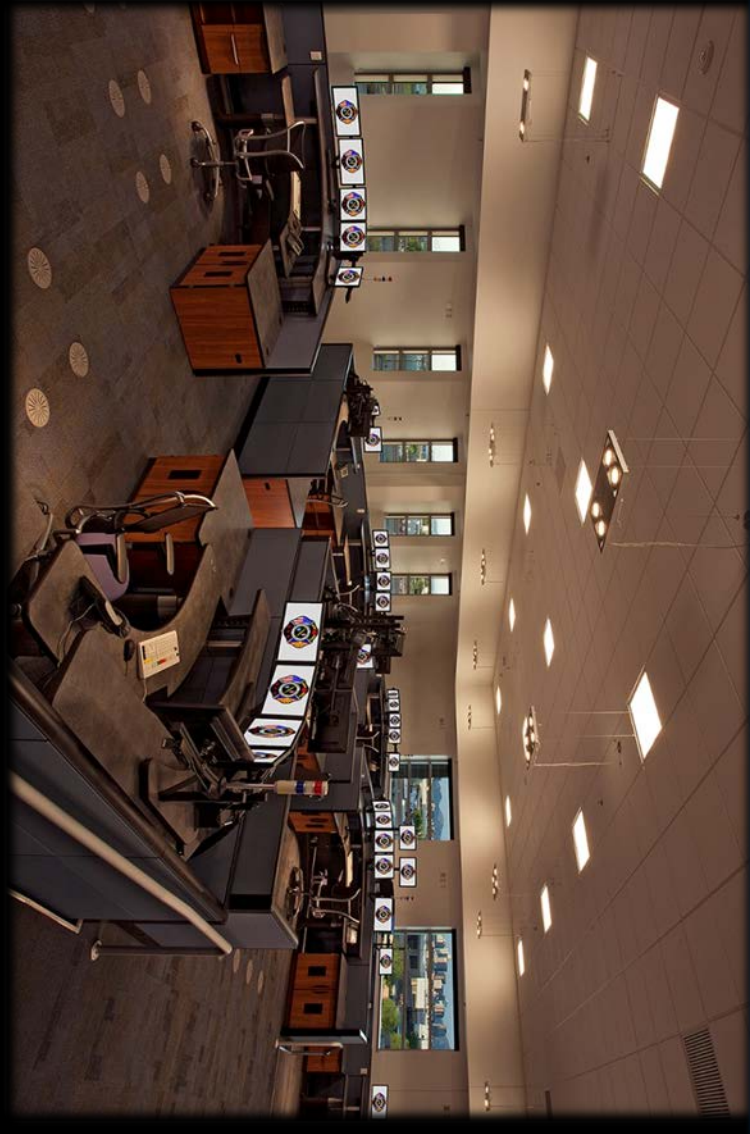
- Greatly improved service to defendants and the public
- Case processing times can be significantly reduced
- No show rates can be radically reduced
- Improved case management
- Significant cost savings
- Excellent response to increasing mental health demands
- Fulfills “Access to Justice”

# Questions?

# MESA REGIONAL FIRE AND MEDICAL DISPATCH CENTER & EOC

## PROJECT STATUS

1



PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
March 17, 2016

# Project Status

2

## KEY MILESTONES

## TARGET COMPLETION DATES

SPACE PLANNING & RELATIONSHIPS	FEB 11, 2015
SITE SELECTION	NOV 23, 2015
LAND ACQUISITION	DEC 23, 2015
PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN	JAN 21
CONCEPT PLAN / SITE PLAN	FEB 25
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CURRENTLY IN PROCESS)	MAY 20
GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP)	JUNE 23
COUNCIL APPROVAL	JULY 5
NOTICE TO PROCEED	JULY 14
BUILDING PERMITS	JULY 28
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE (RIBBON CUTTING)	DECEMBER 22
NETWORK EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION AND INTEGRATION	MARCH 2017

# 1st Floor Plan



<b>HDA</b> HDA Architects, LLC	<b>HDA ARCHITECTS, LLC.</b> 200 St. Vincent Street, Suite 4000, Worcester, MA 01602 TEL: 508.853.8100 FAX: 508.853.8100		PROJECT: <b>MASSA REGIONAL DISPATCH CENTER</b> FIRST FLOOR 300 W. SANDWICH ROAD WORC, MA
	<b>DATE:</b> 3/17/16		

# Questions?