

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

January 4, 2006

The Judicial Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on January 4, 2006 at 7:45 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Chairman Linda Rottman
Marlon E. Branham
Barbara Jarrett
Joan Ruffennach
Murray G. Snow

COMMITTEE ABSENT

Joan C. Herzog
Stella Hunsaker

STAFF PRESENT

Denise Bleyle
Kathleen Broman
Pat Granillo

1. Review and consider items related to the reappointment of Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya and Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang, whose terms expire June 3, 2006.

a. Application for Reappointment

Management Assistant II Denise Bleyle informed the Boardmembers that staff traditionally prepares a letter, which is signed by the Board's Chairman, to formally invite the magistrate whose term is expiring to apply for reappointment to the Mesa City Court. She explained that Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya will be considered for his first reappointment for a two-year term and Magistrate Lue Sang will be considered for reappointment for a four-year term. Ms. Bleyle advised that the letter, along with a disk and a hard copy of the Application for Reappointment, is mailed and the application must be completed and returned to Personnel by January 20, 2006 so the Board can review it at their February meeting.

b. Letter to Commission on Judicial Conduct

Ms. Bleyle explained that Chairman Rottman will sign the Board's letter that will be sent to the Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct to solicit the number of complaints or reprimands, if any, that have been filed against Presiding Magistrate Tafoya and Magistrate Lue Sang.

c. Courtroom Schedule

Ms. Bleyle indicated that the Boardmembers were provided copies of the courtroom schedule for Magistrate Lue Sang. She commented that Presiding Magistrate Tafoya serves more in a

management capacity at the Mesa City Court and does not maintain a courtroom schedule. Ms. Bleyle noted that Presiding Magistrate Tafoya would most likely welcome any of the Boardmembers to the City Court who wanted to observe his management and leadership skills. She added that if anyone is interested in observing Magistrate Lue Sang, she encouraged them to contact Court Administrator Paul Thomas prior to visiting the Court to confirm case schedules and Magistrate Lue Sang's availability.

d. Distribute previous interview questions for review at next meeting

Ms. Bleyle reported that the Boardmembers were provided copies of the 2005 Interview Questions for the reappointment of Magistrates Ortiz and Eppich; the 2002 Interview Questions for Magistrate Lue Sang; and the 2003 Interview Questions for Presiding Magistrate Tafoya. She explained that at the February meeting, the Boardmembers, per their discretion, would modify and finalize the questions in preparation for the public hearings and interviews in March.

Boardmember Ruffennach requested that Ms. Bleyle provide the Boardmembers copies of the interview questions posed to the previous Presiding Magistrate during his reappointment process. She stated that it might be appropriate to ask Presiding Magistrate Tafoya questions regarding, for example, programs or services that have been implemented since his tenure began.

Ms. Bleyle briefly highlighted the upcoming public hearing and interview process, which is currently scheduled to take place on March 1, 2006, beginning at 5:45 p.m.

In response to an inquiry from Chairman Rottman, Ms. Bleyle reported that on December 13, 2005, the City Council convened an Executive Session, at which time they conducted interviews of the three City Magistrate candidates who were recently selected and recommended by the Board. She explained that at the December 19, 2005 Regular Council meeting, the City Council unanimously appointed Elizabeth Peterson Arriola as City Magistrate and she was subsequently sworn in by Mayor Hawker. Ms. Bleyle said that Magistrate Arriola began her employment with the City this week, but said she is uncertain of Magistrate Arriola's assignment and would research the matter prior to the Board's February meeting.

2. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Chairman Rottman advised that the next meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board would be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, 7:45 a.m., in the Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st Street.

3. Adjournment.

It was moved by Boardmember Ruffennach, seconded by Boardmember Branham, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 7:58 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Judicial Advisory Board meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 4th day of January 2006. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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