

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

March 2, 2005

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 March 2, 2005 at 5:46 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Chairman Joan Ruffennach
Marlon E. Branham
Joan C. Herzog
Stella Hunsaker
Barbara Jarrett
Linda Rottman
Murray G. Snow

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Denise Bleyle
Matt Tafoya
Kelly Walsh

1. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Magistrate Victor Ortiz.

Chairman Ruffennach declared the public hearing open for the purpose of receiving comments regarding Magistrate Victor Ortiz.

No citizens came forward at this time.

Presiding City Magistrate Matt Tafoya addressed the Boardmembers and spoke in strong support of Magistrate Victor Ortiz's reappointment. He commented that Magistrate Ortiz demonstrates an outstanding judicial demeanor and was instrumental in the reorganization of the Guadalupe Municipal Court. Magistrate Tafoya stated that Magistrate Ortiz has contributed a number of innovative ideas in an effort to ensure that the Court runs more efficiently and added that he is a credit to the City of Mesa.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, Chairman Ruffennach declared the public hearing closed at 5:50 p.m.

2. Interview Magistrate Victor Ortiz.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Magistrate Victor Ortiz. Chairman Ruffennach thanked Magistrate Ortiz for his input.

3. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Magistrate Karl Eppich.

Chairman Ruffennach declared the public hearing open for the purpose of receiving comments regarding Magistrate Karl Eppich.

No citizens came forward at this time.

Presiding City Magistrate Matt Tafoya commented that he admires Magistrate Eppich for his evenhanded judicial temperament and said that he fully supports his reappointment. He stated that Magistrate Eppich is a caring individual who treats everyone who appears before him with dignity and respect, even under the most difficult circumstances. Magistrate Tafoya acknowledged Magistrate Eppich's excellent case management skills and added that he has volunteered to participate in a variety of educational and administrative assignments both inside and outside of the Mesa City Court while still fulfilling all of his regular duties and responsibilities.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, Chairman Ruffennach declared the public hearing closed at 6:32 p.m.

4. Interview Magistrate Karl Eppich.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Magistrate Eppich. Chairman Ruffennach expressed appreciation to Magistrate Eppich for his input.

5. Convene an Executive Session.

a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of the City. (A.R.S. 38-431.03A(1)).

1. Reappointment items for Magistrates Ortiz and Eppich.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Rottman, that an Executive Session be convened at 6:54 p.m. to discuss and consider the reappointment of Magistrates Ortiz and Eppich.

Carried unanimously.

(At 7:23 p.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened its regular meeting.)

6. Discuss and make recommendations on the reappointment of Magistrate Victor Ortiz and Magistrate Karl Eppich for four-year terms.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Jarrett, that Magistrate Victor Ortiz be reappointed for a four-year term.

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Branham, that Magistrate Karl Eppich be reappointed for a four-year term.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Ruffennach, on behalf of the members of the Board, thanked Magistrates Ortiz and Eppich for their hard work and dedication to the City of Mesa.

7. Adjournment.

It was moved by Boardmember Rottman, seconded by Boardmember Snow, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 7:26 p.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 2nd day of March 2005. 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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