

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

March 3, 2004

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 3, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

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

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Barrett
Denise Bleyle
Kathleen Broman
Matt Tafoya

Chairman Ruffennach welcomed Mayor Hawker to the meeting.

1. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Magistrate Robin Allen.

Chairman Ruffennach declared the public hearing open for the purpose of receiving comments on Magistrate Robin Allen.

Presiding City Magistrate Matt Tafoya addressed the Boardmembers and spoke in strong support of Magistrate Robin Allen's reappointment. He commented that Magistrate Allen consistently demonstrates a willingness to assist the other Magistrates whenever the need arises and added that in reviewing various City Court data, Magistrate Allen possesses the highest case management statistics of any judge at the Mesa Municipal Court.

Court Administrator Kathy Barrett concurred with Magistrate Tafoya's comments relative to Magistrate Allen's reappointment. She highlighted some of her personal observations with regard to Magistrate Allen and noted, among others, that he is a caring individual who is willing to assist citizens who appear in his court whenever possible in an effort to prevent their return into the legal system in the future.

Jan Buscher, an attorney and Mesa resident, explained that she has had the pleasure of appearing before Magistrate Allen as both a prosecutor and defense attorney. She stated that in her opinion, he is a kind, efficient and conscientious judge and 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 6:15 p.m.

2. Interview Magistrate Robin Allen.

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

3. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Magistrate Rebecca Standage.

Chairman Ruffennach declared the public hearing open for the purpose of receiving comments on Magistrate Rebecca Standage.

Presiding City Magistrate Matt Tafoya commented that he has tremendous admiration for Magistrate Standage and fully supports her reappointment. He stated that not only is she diligent and well prepared, but she also possesses tremendous organizational skills and genuinely enjoys working in her position at the Jail Court.

Court Administrator Kathy Barrett advised that based on her 30-plus years of court administration experience, she believes that Magistrate Standage is the hardest working and most conscientious judge with whom she has ever worked. She also stressed the fact that despite the Jail Court's unpleasant environment, employees are eager to work with Magistrate Standage because of her integrity and strong work ethics.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, Chairman Ruffennach declared the public hearing closed at 7:07 p.m.

4. Interview Magistrate Rebecca Standage.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Magistrate Rebecca Standage. Chairman Ruffennach thanked Magistrate Standage for her 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 Allen and Standage.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Shipley, that an Executive Session be convened at 7:45 p.m. to discuss and consider the reappointment of Magistrates Robin Allen and Rebecca Standage.

Carried unanimously.

(At 8:22 p.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened its regular meeting.)

6. Discuss and make recommendations on the reappointment of Magistrate Robin Allen and Magistrate Rebecca Standage for a four-year term.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Shipley, that Magistrate Robin Allen be reappointed for a four-year term.

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Boardmember Shipley, seconded by Boardmember Jarrett, that Magistrate Rebecca Standage be reappointed for a four-year term.

Carried unanimously.

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

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board adjourned at 8:25 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 3rd day of March 2004. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK