

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

May 13, 1998

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 May 13, 1998, at 5:05 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Chairman Marilyn Wilson
James R. Hart II
James Keppel
John Kerr
Judith C.R. O'Neill
Cecil Patterson
Sylvia Garcia-Suttle

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Robin Allen
Denise Bleyle
Linda Crocker
Barbara Jones
Ellen Pence
Scott Rhodes
Sherry Slaughter
Rebecca Standage
Walter Switzer
Kelly Walsh
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Briant Allen
Cecil Ash
Dennis Blackhurst
Jason Ellingson
Eric Jackson
Bryn Johnson
Kirk Morris
Kim Owens
Matthew Riggs
Don Skousen
David Smith
Garrett Smith
Others

Chairman Wilson briefly highlighted the proposed interview process and welcomed those present to the meeting. Chairman Wilson requested that the members of the Judicial Advisory Board introduce themselves to the members of the audience.

Chairman Wilson advised that the hearing/interview process is being videotaped for review by the Mesa City Council. Chairman Wilson informed those present that the Board will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on each of the three Judges who are eligible for reappointment. Chairman Wilson added that following the public hearings/interviews, the Board will convene into an Executive Session and then reconvene into a public hearing for the purpose of providing recommendations on the proposed reappointments.

Chairman Wilson encouraged those present to provide input relative to the proposed reappointments.

1. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer.

Chairman Wilson declared that this is the time and place for a public hearing regarding the proposed reappointment of Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer.

Cecil Ash, 1733 East Gable, a retired attorney and resident of Mesa, stated that it has come to his attention that in late 1996 or early 1997, Judge Switzer and Judge Forster participated in a contest to determine who, at the end of each day, had attained the most guilty pleas from their defendants. Mr. Ash stated the opinion that if the alleged contest did occur, poor judgement has been demonstrated on the part of Judge Switzer.

Mr. Ash also informed the members of the Board that he has known Judge Robin Allen and Judge Rebecca Standage for many years and spoke in strong support of their reappointments.

Chairman Wilson thanked Mr. Ash for his input.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

2. Interview Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer.

Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer responded to a variety of interview questions posed by the members of the Judicial Advisory Board.

Judge Switzer stated the opinion that he has the ability to bring a heightened level of stability to the Court and commented on his extensive legal and administrative background and expertise.

Chairman Wilson thanked Judge Switzer for his input.

(Chairman Wilson declared a recess at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.)

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

Chairman Wilson declared that this is the time and place for a public hearing on the proposed reappointment of Magistrate Rebecca Standage.

Kirk Morris, a resident of Mesa, stated that he is a neighbor of Judge Standage and spoke in strong support of her reappointment. Mr. Morris expressed the opinion that Judge Standage's ethics, community involvement and integrity serve as testimony to the appropriateness of her reappointment.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Wilson thanked Mr. Morris for his input.

4. Interview Magistrate Rebecca Standage.

City Magistrate Rebecca Standage responded to a variety of interview questions posed by the members of the Judicial Advisory Board.

Judge Standage informed the Board that she has thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of her position as City Magistrate and believes that she possesses strong professional strengths, a respect for defendants and the overall experience necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the position.

Chairman Wilson thanked Judge Standage for her input.

(Chairman Wilson declared a recess at 6:50 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.)

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

Chairman Wilson declared that this is the time and place for a public hearing on the proposed reappointment of Magistrate Robin Allen.

The following speakers spoke in support of the reappointment of Magistrate Robin Allen and provided input relative to Judge Allen's character, integrity, compassion and professionalism. (Speakers are listed in the order in which they spoke.)

Dennis Blackhurst	3006 East Fairfield
Eric Jackson	2255 East Mallory Circle
Kirk Morris	P.O. Box 711
David Smith	3503 East Fairbrook Street
Bryn Johnson	611 East Draper
Garrett Smith	18 East University
Matthew Riggs	45 West University
Kim Owens	2232 East Kenwood
Briant Allen	620 East Draper
Don Skousen	1837 South Mesa Drive
Jason Ellingson	410 North Roca

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Wilson thanked the speakers for their input.

(Chairman Wilson declared a recess at 7:35 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.)

6. Interview Magistrate Robin Allen.

City Magistrate Robin Allen responded to a variety of questions posed by the members of the Judicial Advisory Board.

Judge Allen commented on his extensive education and training and stated the opinion that he carries out his responsibilities in an impartial, compassionate and professional manner, which reflects positively on the Mesa City Court.

Chairman Wilson thanked Judge Allen for his input.

7. Adjourn into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing and making recommendations on the reappointments of City Magistrate Walter Switzer, Magistrate Rebecca Standage and Magistrate Robin Allen.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Hart, seconded by Boardmember O'Neill, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board adjourn into an Executive Session at 8:34 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

8. Reconvene the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board for the purpose of making recommendations on the proposed reappointments of Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer, Magistrate Rebecca Standage and Magistrate Robin Allen.

Chairman Wilson reconvened the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board at 9:09 p.m. and advised that the Board will provide recommendations on the proposed reappointments.

It was moved by Boardmember O'Neill, seconded by Boardmember Keppel, that the Board recommend to the Mesa City Council that Walter Switzer be reappointed to the position of Presiding City Magistrate.

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Hart, seconded by Boardmember O'Neill, that the Board recommend to the Mesa City Council that Rebecca Standage be reappointed to the position of City Magistrate.

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Boardmember Kerr, seconded by Boardmember Patterson, that the Board recommend to the Mesa City Council that Robin Allen be reappointed to the position of City Magistrate.

Carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Hart, seconded by Boardmember O'Neill, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board adjourn at 9:11 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

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 13th day of May 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1998

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK