

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

March 1, 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 March 1, 2006 at 5:50 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

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

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Denise Bleyle
Kathleen Broman
Matt Tafoya

1. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang.

Chairman Rottman declared the public hearing open for the purpose of receiving comments regarding Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang.

Presiding City Magistrate Matt Tafoya addressed the Boardmembers and spoke in strong support of Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang's reappointment. He commented that not only is Magistrate Lue Sang a conscientious and dedicated jurist, but she also has participated in various professional committees and outreach organizations throughout the community. Presiding Magistrate Tafoya added that in his opinion, Magistrate Lue Sang is a "five star" judge and a valuable asset to the City of Mesa and the Mesa Municipal Court.

Rebecca Standage, retired Mesa Municipal Court Magistrate, expressed high regard for Magistrate Lue Sang's professional qualifications, integrity and her willingness to assist others whenever necessary. She commented that Magistrate Lue Sang demonstrates the ideals and dedication expected of a judge, and urged the Board to recommend her reappointment to the Mesa Municipal Court.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, Chairman Rottman declared the public hearing closed at 5:53 p.m.

2. Interview Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang. Chairman Rottman thanked Magistrate Lue Sang for her input.

3. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya.

Rebecca Standage, retired Mesa Municipal Court Magistrate, voiced support for the reappointment of Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya. She commented that upon his arrival at the Mesa Municipal Court two years ago, he implemented a series of innovative programs and was instrumental in obtaining funding for the remodeling of the Jail Court. Ms. Standage added that Presiding Magistrate Tafoya also encourages his fellow judges to participate in outside educational training programs in order to enhance their professional development.

Kathy Barrett, former Court Administrator for the Mesa Municipal Court, advised that during the time she worked with Presiding Magistrate Tafoya, he readily sought feedback from the judges, Court administrators and staff on a variety of issues. She stated that Presiding Magistrate Tafoya also felt it was important that staff be recognized for their accomplishments and achievements.

Susan Bozile, a Mesa Municipal Court employee, stated the opinion that Presiding Magistrate Tafoya is a hardworking, dedicated and compassionate individual who is committed to the Mesa Municipal Court and the community. She added that he is a "visionary" for the Court and working to ensure that all citizens are served in an efficient and dignified manner.

Paul Thomas, Court Administrator for the Mesa Municipal Court, spoke regarding Presiding Magistrate Tafoya's strong leadership skills, his inspirational qualities and his ability to make difficult decisions in the best interest of the Court. He urged the Board to recommend Presiding Magistrate Tafoya's reappointment to the Mesa Municipal Court.

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

4. Interview Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya. Chairman Rottman thanked Presiding Magistrate Tafoya 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 Magistrate Lue Sang and Presiding Magistrate Tafoya.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Jarrett, that an Executive Session be convened at 7:08 p.m. to discuss the reappointment of Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang and Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya.

Carried unanimously.

(At 7:33 p.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened its regular meeting.)

6. Discuss and make recommendations on the reappointment of Magistrate Michelle Lue Sang for a four-year term and Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya for a two-year term.

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

Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Hunsaker, that Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya be reappointed for a two-year term.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Rottman, on behalf of the members of the Board, thanked Presiding Magistrate Tafoya and Magistrate Lue Sang for their hard work and dedication to the City of Mesa.

7. Adjournment.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Jarrett, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 7:36 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 1st day of March 2006. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK