

# JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

September 1, 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 September 1, 2004 at 8:03 a.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

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

## COMMITTEE ABSENT

Marlon E. Branham

## STAFF PRESENT

Denise Bleyle  
Kathleen Broman  
Pat Granillo  
Matt Tafoya

## OTHERS

### 1. Introductions.

Chairman Ruffennach welcomed newly appointed Boardmember Stella Hunsaker and announced that Ms. Hunsaker would be taking the place of former Boardmember Joe Shipley.

Boardmember Hunsaker provided the Board with a brief synopsis of her professional background and voiced enthusiasm for her new appointment.

Chairman Ruffennach and the members of the Board welcomed Ms. Hunsaker and congratulated her on her appointment.

### 2. Elect Chair and Vice Chair.

It was moved by Boardmember Rottman, seconded by Boardmember Snow, that Chairman Ruffennach be reappointed Chairman of the Judicial Advisory Board.

Chairman Ruffennach stated that it was the consensus of the Board that she be reappointed Chairman of the Judicial Advisory Board.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Chairman Ruffennach, that Boardmember Rottman be reappointed Vice Chairman of the Judicial Advisory Board.

Chairman Ruffennach stated that it was the consensus of the Board that Boardmember Rottman be reappointed as Vice Chairman of the Judicial Advisory Board.

3. Review notebooks and discuss schedule and work plan.

Management Assistant II Denise Bleyle stated that she had prepared updated information for the Boardmembers' individual notebooks and briefly reviewed the content of the material. She pointed out that the notebooks contain a roster of the Boardmembers' names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and term expirations; the ordinance which resulted in the creation of the Board; the Board's procedures and guidelines; a listing of the current terms of the Mesa City Court Magistrates, and the Judicial Advisory Board Work Plan.

4. Discuss and consider new application and processes for judicial reappointments.

Chairman Ruffennach commented that the purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Boardmembers with the opportunity to offer suggestions and input relative to potential changes to the current "Application for Reappointment, City Magistrate, Mesa Municipal Court." She explained that it is her desire that such changes be incorporated into a new application, which would be e-mailed to the Boardmembers for their perusal and additional comments, and thereby eliminate the need for the Board's October 6, 2004 meeting.

A discussion ensued among the Boardmembers relative to proposed deletions, changes, and revisions to a number of questions contained in the Application for Reappointment.

In response to an inquiry from Chairman Ruffennach, Senior Human Resources Analyst Kathleen Broman clarified that the original application submitted by a City Magistrate candidate would be placed in his or her personnel file. She stated that subsequent reappointment applications would not be maintained in that file, however, but located in the Personnel Office. Ms. Broman added that the documentation provided to the Boardmembers during a reappointment process includes those items provided by the City Magistrate.

Magistrate Norine Richardson addressed the Boardmembers and expressed a series of concerns regarding the current Application for Reappointment. She commented that many of the responses on the original application that were provided by herself and her fellow magistrates have not changed and noted that re-answering the same questions on the Application for Reappointment becomes a very drawn-out process. Magistrate Richardson acknowledged that she and her colleagues are held to a higher standard and stated that she is simply asking that the Board give some consideration to a more abbreviated application. She added that the City of Mesa is the only municipality that requires its magistrates to fill out such lengthy reappointment applications.

Further discussion ensued, for the benefit of Boardmember Hunsaker, relative to why the Board is considering a new application and processes for judicial reappointments; the fact that it is appropriate to minimize the length of the application, but not to the degree that a new Boardmember would not have sufficient information with which to make an informed decision regarding an individual's reappointment; and that the manner in which the document is modified is left entirely up to the Board's discretion.

Presiding City Magistrate Matt Tafoya expressed appreciation to the Boardmembers for taking the time to improve and streamline the Application for Reappointment. He commented that Maricopa County Presiding Judge Colin Campbell wanted to attend today's meeting to express his support for the Board's efforts, but was unable to do so because of a scheduling conflict.

Following a discussion among the Boardmembers relative to suggested revisions and/or deletions to the Application for Reappointment, the following action occurred:

- It was the consensus of the Board that in an effort to expedite the process, a subcommittee be formed consisting of Boardmembers Snow, Rottman, Jarrett and Hunsaker and City Magistrates Tafoya and Standage to review and draft a new Application for Reappointment. (The remaining City Magistrates would be welcome to attend the meeting.)
- That the subcommittee meet on September 13, 2004 at 8:15 a.m. at the library at the Mesa Municipal Court. (With a follow-up meeting tentatively scheduled for September 27, 2004).
- That prior to the subcommittee meeting, the City Magistrates are encouraged to submit comments/concerns to Boardmember Snow relative to specific questions contained on the Application for Reappointment.
- That the timetable for the completion of the revised application could be extended to early December and still allow Magistrates Karl Eppich and Victor Ortiz to utilize the document for their upcoming reappointments.

Additional discussion ensued among the Boardmembers regarding various components of the application; the fact that different forms of disciplinary action can be imposed against a City employee; that Ms. Bleyle will research the length of time that Scottsdale has utilized their application for reappointment; and possible modifications to the Board's meeting schedule.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information:

Chairman Ruffennach stated that the next meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, October 6, 2004, 8:00 a.m.

6. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

7. Adjournment.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Rottman, seconded by Boardmember Snow, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 9:00 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2004. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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