



JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

June 13, 2016

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 June 13, 2016 at 7:48 a.m.

BOARD PRESENT

David P. Brooks, Chairman
Phillip Austin
Margaret Downie
Pat Esparza
Peter Lesar
Teresa Sanders

BOARD ABSENT

Robin Harris

STAFF PRESENT

Michael Claspell
Nicole Fazzio
Kelly Gregan
Matt Tafoya

1. Approve minutes from the May 23, 2016 meeting.

It was moved by Boardmember Esparza, seconded by Boardmember Lesar, that the minutes from the May 23, 2016 Board meeting be approved as amended.

Chairman Brooks declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Public interview of candidates for the position of City Magistrate.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to the following candidates: Sherri Rollison; John Tatz; Lori Metcalf; Charles Adornetto; Mina Mendez; Bruce Owens; Peter Psareas; and Alicia Lawler.

3. At this time the Board will recess the meeting for lunch. The meeting will reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

It was moved by Boardmember Esparza, seconded by Boardmember Sanders to recess the meeting at 12:14 p.m. for a lunch break.

Chairman Brooks declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

It was moved by Boardmember Austin, seconded by Boardmember Sanders to reconvene the regular meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Chairman Brooks declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Items from Citizens Present.

Margarita Silva, an attorney in Phoenix, offered a series of comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Mina Mendez. She stated that she has known Ms. Mendez for approximately 20 years. She noted that she has worked with Ms. Mendez for many years on the Latina Mentoring Project, which provides professional mentoring to legal professionals and law students; that it began as a book club that included ten to twelve attorneys and has grown to encompass 130 individuals; and that Ms. Mendez' involvement with the Latina Mentoring Project and other activities sets her apart. She described Ms. Mendez as dedicated and committed to the community and that she exemplifies what a good judge is and would be an excellent asset to the organization.

Andrew Davidson, Interim City Prosecutor for the City of Tempe, offered comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Peter Psareas. He stated that he has known Mr. Psareas for approximately 25 years and they have worked together on many projects. He described Mr. Psareas as calm with a professional demeanor, even-keeled and the kind of person you want on the bench. He stressed that Mr. Psareas has a strong knowledge of the law, is competent, hardworking, calm, collected and has a sense of justice. He also noted that Mr. Psareas worked in the City of Tempe as the sole prosecutor on the custody docket and was consistently reliable and discrete. He stated that he has complete confidence in Mr. Psareas and that he would be hard-working, calm and able to handle whatever is asked of him.

Mary Ann Sophy, a Tax Analyst for the Arizona Department of Economic Security, offered comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Peter Psareas. She stated that she has known Mr. Psareas for over 20 years and that he uses sound judgement and has a wealth of experience. She acknowledged that his experience as both a prosecutor and defense attorney has served him well; that he facilitates open communication and is able to bring parties together for an amicable resolution; that he has an open door policy and that all individuals appearing in his court are treated with respect. She concluded by stating that his intelligence, honesty, even temper and good humor are present at all times and that she highly recommends his candidacy.

Lynn Arouh, former Head Prosecutor for the Town of Gilbert, offered a series of comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Bruce Owens. She stated that she hired him to work for the Town of Gilbert and that it was one of the best hiring decisions she ever made. She noted that she worked with him until 2008 when he became a Hearing Officer with the Gilbert Town Court. She remarked that he has a steady means of analyzing cases, knows his case law, is always prepared and is an excellent attorney. She explained that as a Hearing Officer, he faces large dockets and is always efficient with a great judicial demeanor. She described him as hard-working, caring, considerate and an ethical attorney.

Alison Ferrante, Assistant Town Prosecutor for the Town of Gilbert, offered her comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Bruce Owens. She stated that she began working with him in 2001 and worked with him until he became a Hearing Officer in the Gilbert Court. She described him as the "go to" person whose opinion is highly valued; that he was the first to volunteer for the more serious and difficult cases; that he is patient, fair and thoroughly reviews all cases before him; and that he holds all parties accountable in a fair manner and has great control over his courtroom. She noted that he knows the great volume of work in the Court and that his staff speaks very highly of him. Ms. Ferrante concluded her remarks by stating that she highly recommends Mr. Owens for the City Magistrate position.

5. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Boardmember Esparza, seconded by Boardmember Lesar, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Chairman Brooks declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

1. Appointment of City Magistrate

(The Executive Session adjourned and the Board meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m.)

6. Discuss and take action on a recommendation to the City Council, identifying the recommended candidates for the vacant position of City Magistrate and summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of each recommended candidate.

It was moved by Boardmember Downie, seconded by Boardmember Austin, that this item be continued.

Chairman Brooks declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Chairman Brooks stated that the next meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board will be June 29, 2016, 7:45 a.m., in the Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street.

8. Adjournment.

It was moved by Boardmember Sanders, seconded by Boardmember Austin, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Chairman Brooks declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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 June, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK