

ORDINANCE NO. 5109

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESA, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, CREATING A NEW TITLE 2, CHAPTER 25 OF THE MESA CITY CODE, ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DESCRIBING ITS MEMBERS AND ITS DUTIES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Mesa Chamber of Commerce has researched how other Valley cities establish compensation for elected officials,

**WHEREAS**, they have determined that many large cities have established an independent commission to recommend fair and reasonable compensation for elected officials,

**WHEREAS**, the Mesa City Charter currently allows the City Council to set its own compensation,

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber of Commerce recommends that the City Council establish an Independent Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials to ensure that Mesa's elected officials will be compensated at a level that (1) is reasonable, (2) is likely to attract competent and effective people to serve in public office, (3) makes public service possible for every eligible citizen, not just those whose financial status enables them to serve, and (4) takes into account the financial circumstances of the City.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Mesa, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1: That pursuant to Section 501 of the Mesa City Charter, a new Title 2, Chapter 25 of the Mesa City Code is hereby created as follows:

**CHAPTER 25**

**INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

**SECTION**

**2-25-1 POLICY ON ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION**

**2-25-2 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON  
COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS; MEMBERSHIP; AND  
MEETINGS**

**2-25-3 DUTIES**

**2-25-1 POLICY ON ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION**

**IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THE CITY OF MESA THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR TIME AND EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AT A LEVEL THAT (1) IS REASONABLE IN LIGHT OF THE COMPENSATION PAID TO ELECTED OFFICIALS IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN THE UNITED STATES OF SIMILAR SIZE, (2) WILL INCLUDE THE COSTS AND EXPENSES NECESSARY TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES, (3) IS LIKELY TO ATTRACT COMPETENT AND EFFECTIVE PEOPLE TO SERVE IN PUBLIC OFFICE, (4) MAKES PUBLIC SERVICE POSSIBLE FOR EVERY ELIGIBLE CITIZEN, NOT JUST THOSE WHOSE FINANCIAL STATUS ENABLES THEM TO SERVE, (5) TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CITY, AND (6) IS DETERMINED BY AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

**2-25-2 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON  
COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS; MEMBERSHIP; AND  
MEETINGS.**

**(A) THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS (THE "COMMISSION") SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL. THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE (5) MEMBERS AND SHALL INCLUDE (1) A REPRESENTATIVE OF MESA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY, (2) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MESA'S EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY, (3) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MESA'S NON-PROFIT BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND (4) TWO (2) MEMBERS AT LARGE. THE CHAIRPERSON SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL SERVE STAGGERED THREE (3) YEAR TERMS. AT THE TIME OF THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT, THE MAYOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE LENGTH OF THE TERM OF ALL MEMBERS TO PROVIDE FOR STAGGERED TERMS, WHICH IN NO EVENT SHALL BE MORE THAN THREE (3) YEARS.**

**(B) ELIGIBILITY OF COMMISSION MEMBERS: COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL BE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF MESA AND**

SHALL BE EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OLD OR OLDER. NO MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE, OR WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS PRIOR TO SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION HAVE BEEN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY OF MESA. NO MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE SERVING OR, WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS PRIOR TO SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION, HAVE SERVED, AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL FOR THE CITY OF MESA.

- (C) TIMING OF MEETINGS. THE COMMISSION SHALL HOLD ITS INITIAL MEETING NO LATER THAN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PROVISION. THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION MAY MEET AT THE DISCRETION OF ITS CHAIRMAN OR A MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS, BUT SHALL MEET NOT LESS FREQUENTLY THAN EVERY TWO (2) YEARS. ANY RECOMMENDATION TO BE MADE BY THE COMMISSION MUST BE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

#### 2-25-3 DUTIES

- (A) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THE COMMISSION SHALL RENDER A WRITTEN REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF MESA TO THE CITY MANAGER NO LATER THAN NINETY (90) DAYS FOLLOWING ITS INITIAL MEETING IN ANY YEAR. WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RECEIVING THE WRITTEN REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION, THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER AND VOTE ON THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION MUST BE APPROVED OR REJECTED AS A WHOLE BY THE CITY COUNCIL.
- (B) COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BY THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE COMPENSATION OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR BASED ON COMPARATIVE INFORMATION REGARDING THE COMPENSATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR ISSUES THAT THE COMMISSION DEEMS APPROPRIATE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH REVIEW SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE PERFORMANCE REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO SUCH ELECTED OFFICIALS, BUT SHALL RELATE SOLELY TO THE COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF MESA COMPARED TO THAT OF SIMILARLY SITUATED OFFICIALS IN SIMILAR MUNICIPALITIES.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
MESA, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012.

APPROVED:



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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

