

# JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 1, 2023

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 February 1, 2023, at 7:45 a.m.

## BOARD PRESENT

Kent Cattani, Chairperson  
Theo McCalvin, Vice Chairperson  
Kelley Durham  
Kelli Flinchbaugh  
Daniel Kiley  
Cody Turley

## BOARD ABSENT

None

## STAFF PRESENT

Agnes Goodwine  
Carrie Pile  
Alfred Smith

### 1. Meeting called to order.

Chairperson Cattani called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. and conducted a roll call.

### 2. Approve minutes from the October 26, 2022, Board meeting.

It was moved by Boardmember Flinchbaugh, seconded by Boardmember Turley, that the October 26, 2022, Board meeting minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cattani–McCalvin–Durham–Flinchbaugh–Turley

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

### 3. Elect Vice Chair.

It was moved by Boardmember McCalvin, seconded by Boardmember Flinchbaugh, that Theo McCalvin be appointed as Vice Chair of the Judicial Advisory Board.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cattani–McCalvin–Durham–Flinchbaugh–Turley

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

### 4. Items from Citizens Present.

There were no items from citizens present.

5. Hear a presentation and discuss the State of the Court from Presiding Magistrate John Tatz.

Judge John Tatz displayed a PowerPoint presentation on the State of the Court. **(See Attachment 1)**

Judge Tatz stated that employee satisfaction at the Mesa Municipal Court continues to increase. He recognized Court Administrator Shawn Haught for creating the "All Rise" newsletter. He remarked that employees are happier as a result of the employee engagement program and related activities.

Judge Tatz reported that the Community Court was established in 2018 in response to the City's homelessness and substance abuse issues. He explained court cases are placed on hold to give social service agencies time to assist defendants with obtaining employment, housing, and other services. He added successful graduates of the program have their cases dismissed. He stated the Veterans Court focuses on treatment rather than punishment. He explained the court, along with the Veterans Administration and other organizations, works with veterans to develop a treatment plan for their specific needs. He noted arraignment and Rule 11 courts had undergone improvement, and court operations are functioning effectively. He pointed out that photo radar hearings are now offered virtually due to the Supreme Court ruling. He noted the courthouse window tinting, funded with grant dollars, enhances security, and supports the City's Climate Action Plan. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Judge Tatz reported that since the pandemic, court filings have increased to 95,710 for FY 21/22 compared with 81,053 for FY 19/20. In discussing customer service performance measures, he pointed out that employees serve 2200 to 2800 customers a month and that 97% to 99% of customers are helped within 15 minutes. He indicated employees received approximately 20,000 phone calls with a low abandonment rate of 2%. (See Pages 3 and 4 of Attachment 1)

Judge Tatz highlighted the number of cases dismissed in Community Court graduations. He remarked that the Domestic Violence Court recently added two new positions, including a Probation Monitor and a Program Assistant. He said, to date, there has been 0% recidivism for those placed on probation in the program. (See Pages 5 and 6 of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Chairperson Cattani, Judge Tatz stated he recently approached the City for a budget enhancement request to increase judges pro tempores' salary.

Chairperson Cattani thanked Judge Tatz for the presentation.

6. 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. Review and discuss application and background materials for Magistrate Stephen Umpleby reappointment.

It was moved by Vice Chair McCalvin, seconded by Boardmember Turley, that the Board enter into an Executive Session at 8:03 a.m.

AYES – Cattani–McCalvin–Durham–Flinchbaugh–Turley  
NAYS – None  
ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

(At 8:27 a.m. the Executive Session adjourned, and the Board reconvened their regular meeting.)

7. Review, discuss, and take action on items related to the reappointment of Magistrate Stephen Umpleby.

Discussion only; no formal action taken by the Board.

8. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Chairperson Cattani stated the new schedule for the upcoming public hearing and interview of Magistrate Umpleby meeting is as follows:

Next meeting:

March 22, 2023, 4:30 p.m.  
Public Hearing and Interview  
Lower-Level Council Chambers 57 E. First Street

9. Adjourn.

Without objection, the Judicial Advisory Board adjourned at 8:28 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 February 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

  
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HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

# State of the Court

John Tatz

Presiding Magistrate

# Highlights

- All judicial officer positions are filled
- Employee satisfaction continues to rise  
*All Rise* and employee engagement activities
- Specialty Courts
  - Community Court, Veterans Court, Arraignment Court & Rule 11 Court
  - Domestic Violence Court
- Court Operations & Plan B accommodations
  - Photo radar
  - Protective Order applications
  - Jury Trial Management Conferences
- Enhanced security
  - Completed tinting of the courthouse
  - First fire drill and first active shooter drill

# Court filings

|             | FY 18/19 | FY 19/20 | FY 20/21 | FY 21/22 |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fiscal Year | 91,420   | 81,053   | 91,779   | 95,710   |

# Customer Service

- Added a new payment kiosk outside the courthouse
- Last three months of 2022
  - October 2743 counter customers, 99.8% served within 15 minutes
  - November – 2454 - 97.8%
  - December – 2285 - 99.60%
- Phone calls same three months
  - October - 19,714 - 2% abandoned call rate
  - November - 20,145 - 4%
  - December - 18,715 - 2%

# Community Court

## Graduations

- 2020 – 61 (135 cases)
- 2021 – 111 (227 cases)
- 2022 – 121 (233 cases)



# Domestic Violence Court

- ❖ Hired Program Assistant and Probation Monitoring Officer
- ❖ Held first session July 2022
- ❖ Intimate partner injury assault cases
- ❖ To date – 0% recidivism for those placed on probation in the program

# Questions?



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