



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LOCAL FIRE AND POLICE PENSION BOARDS MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in Conference Room 170 West, 20 E. Main Street on November 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Butler, City Manager
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)
Chris Fifield (Fire)
Marc Heirshberg (Citizen Member)
Nick Lien (Police)
Ryan A. Russell (Police)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen, Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Holly Moseley, City Clerk
Steven Aguilar, Deputy City Clerk
Vera Warhurst, Sr. Program Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Rob Alkire
Maggie Alkire
Morya Alkire
Ashtan Candle
Casey Christensen
Trevyn Crosser
George Dennison
Bryan Dukes
Scott Figgins
Ken Forrey
Yolanda Furro
Nitra Hawkins
Dave Hicks
Megan Johnson
Cade Keller
Cynthia Kelley
Paul Liddell
H.R. Montemorra
Corey Nichols
Rae Lynn Nielsen
Crystal Parks
Jason Riordan
Tina Rogers
Gary Smith MD
Vel Sneezy
Kael Sorrells
Stacie Tidwell (Survivor, Mark Keller)
Howard Turley
Declan Wall
Jacob Williams
Nic Woolstenhulme

Boardmember Butler conducted a roll call.

Boardmember Butler excused Chairperson Mickelsen from the entire meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of October 14, 2025.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of October 14, 2025, be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Lien- Russell

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

FIRE PENSION BOARD

Boardmember Butler called to order the Local Fire Pension Board at 2:01 p.m.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on Firefighter Mark Keller and Fire Engineer Paul Shupe.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

(The Local Fire board recessed at 2:02 p.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 2:33 p.m.)

2. Discuss and consider awarding a Line of Duty Death benefit to Firefighter Mark Keller.

Boardmember Butler acknowledged the strong feelings surrounding the case and recognized the significant impact Firefighter Keller had on the department, the City, and his family. He stated that the Board is committed to acting appropriately, making legally sound decisions, and reaching a result that meets all Public Safety Pension Retirement System expectations while ensuring that due diligence is completed so Firefighter Keller and his family receive the consideration they deserve.

It was moved by Boardmember Fifield, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, to forward all documentation, including Dr. Gary Smith's report, for an Independent Medical Examination review of Firefighter Mark Keller's Line of Duty Death application.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg
NAYS - None
ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Discuss and consider awarding a Line of Duty Death benefit to Fire Engineer Paul Shupe.

Boardmember Butler encouraged the Board to pose any questions they may have regarding the Line of Duty Death application for Fire Engineer Paul Shupe. Boardmember Butler indicated that in view of the absence of questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda seconded by Boardmember Fifield, that the Line of Death Duty benefit to Fire Engineer Paul Shupe be awarded based on A.R.S. § 23-901.09, the cancer presumption statute, which states that any disease, infirmity or impairment of a firefighter's or fire investigator's health caused by brain cancer – among other listed cancers - is presumed to arise out of employment.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg
NAYS - None
ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

Boardmember Butler called to order the Local Police Pension Board at 2:35 p.m.

4. Certification of full-time Law Enforcement Officers pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-842.24(A), 38-842.27, 38-842.31 and 38-847(D)1.

Subsequent to a review of all medical records, Local Boardmembers requested the record reflect that the applicants Lyric Gentry, McKenzie Macintyre, and Ricardo Orduno have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that Police applicants Lyric Gentry, McKenzie Macintyre, and Ricardo Orduno be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Heirshberg-Lien-Russell
NAYS - None
ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Discuss and take action on the re-hire retired PSPRS member Kelvin Smith to Downtown Engagement Team Member.

Human Resources Administrator Tina Rogers reported that Kelvin Smith retired as a City of Mesa Police Lieutenant effective May 29, 2015, and subsequently competed in an open, competitive recruitment process for the civilian, non-PSPRS position Downtown Engagement Team Member position.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that the re-hire of retired PSPRS member Kelvin Smith to Downtown Engagement Team Member with an effective date to be determined, be approved as within the statutory requirements and that no alternate contribution will need to be paid.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Butler-Heirshberg-Lien-Russell
NAYS - None
ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application for Police Officer Richard Bates.

Boardmember Butler welcomed Police Officer Richard Bates to the meeting. He encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Bates' pending Accidental Disability Retirement application.

Boardmember Russell expressed his appreciation to Officer Bates for the timeline provided and inquired whether a workers' compensation application had been filed regarding the claimed disability. He also asked about any prior treatments, reviewed Officer Bates' current condition, and discussed his performance and work status.

Officer Bates explained that the disability application was submitted under the Craig Tiger Act and was not filed as a workers' compensation claim. He reviewed his prior treatments and stated that his treatment is progressing well; however, his physician has determined that, in order for him to continue improving, he can no longer perform the duties of a Police Officer.

Boardmember Russell asked if Police Officer Bates could receive a letter from his physician confirming that he has reached maximum medical improvement, is stationary, and is also considered permanently disabled. Police Officer Bates confirmed.

Boardmember Butler indicated that in view of the absence of further questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, to table the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Police Officer Richard Bates for 60 days to allow him time to obtain additional documentation from his attending physician.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

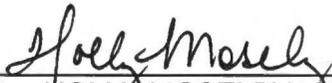
AYES – Butler-Heirshberg-Lien-Russell
NAYS - None
ABSENT – Mickelsen

Boardmember Butler declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire and Police Pension Boards adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Board meeting of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 10th day of November 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK