

**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA  
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
LOCAL FIRE AND POLICE PENSION BOARDS MEETING  
OCTOBER 14, 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 October 14, 2025, at 2:01 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dee Ann Mickelsen, Chair  
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)  
Chris Fifield (Fire)  
Nick Lien (Police)  
Ryan A. Russell (Police)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Scott Butler, City Manager  
Marc Heirshberg (Citizen  
Member)

**STAFF PRESENT**

Holly Moseley, City Clerk  
Vera Warhurst, Sr. Program Asst.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Steven Aguilar  
Nitra Hawkins  
Dave Hicks  
Cynthia Kelley  
Emily Nichols  
Rae Lynn Nielsen  
Teri Overby  
Carrie Pile  
Tina Rogers  
Jose Torres (Applicant)

Chairperson Mickelsen conducted a roll call.

Chairperson Mickelsen excused Boardmember Heirshberg and Boardmember Butler from the entire meeting.

Chairperson Mickelsen excused Boardmember Castaneda from the beginning of the meeting; he arrived at 2:03 pm.

**1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of August 21, 2025.**

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of August 21, 2025, be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES –Castaneda-Fifield-Lien-Mickelsen-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler-Heirshberg

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

At the request of Chairperson Mickelsen, the Local Police Pension Board convened prior to the Local Fire Pension Board but for purposes of clarity items will remain as listed on the agenda.

### **FIRE PENSION BOARD**

Chairperson Mickelsen called to order the Local Fire Pension Board at 2:11 p.m.

(The Local Fire Board recessed at 2:12 p.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 2:22 p.m.)

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

Chairperson Mickelsen noted that the Board had received additional records related to the case and asked Boardmember Castaneda to provide further details.

Boardmember Castaneda explained that when the Board originally met on August 21, 2025, they approved a Line of Duty Death benefit for Firefighter Mark Keller based on the limited information that was available at the time. He reported that the Public Safety Pension Retirement System (PSPRS) subsequently requested additional information from the Local Fire Pension Board clarifying the call log and the timing of calls in relation to the timing of Firefighter Keller's death at the fire station. He stated that the board has since gathered additional information and had discussions with the crew. He acknowledged that this was a tragic event and expressed that personnel continue to mourn the loss of a great Firefighter.

Boardmember Castaneda read a portion of ARS §38-846, noting that a Line of Duty Death requires that "the decedent's death was the direct and proximate result of the performance of the decedent's public safety duties." He described the sequence of events with Firefighter Keller's last call being around 5:00 p.m. and was last seen at the station around 10:00 p.m. before retiring to bed. He said the crew received a call the next morning around 6:30 a.m. when they discovered Firefighter Keller deceased in his room. Based on the newly received information, he recognized the challenge with the circumstances of his death meeting the statutory definition as required for a Line of Duty Death.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, to reverse the previous decision to approve the Line of Duty Death for Firefighter Mark Keller and award the spousal benefit according to Statute.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Castaneda-Fifield-Mickelsen

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler-Heirshberg

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

### **POLICE PENSION BOARD**

Chairperson Mickelsen called to order the Local Police Pension Board at 2:02 p.m.

3. Acknowledge receipt of PSPRS plan elections made by new hires.

Receipt of PSPRS plan elections made by new hires was acknowledged. **(See Attachment 1)**

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 Kyle Albrecht, Baker Aliiolepo, Daniel Baker, Mathieu Diano, Eli Frisch, Paul Marquez, Alyce Medrano, Oscar Nieto, Ian Payne, Ruben Salinas, Anthony Sanchez, and Ivan Valle have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that Police applicants Kyle Albrecht, Baker Aliiolepo, Daniel Baker, Mathieu Diano, Eli Frisch, Paul Marquez, Alyce Medrano, Oscar Nieto, Ian Payne, Ruben Salinas, Anthony Sanchez, and Ivan Valle be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Lien-Mickelsen-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler-Heirshberg

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

(The Local Police Board recessed at 2:04 p.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 2:10 p.m.)

5. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability application of Police Officer Jose Torres.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Police Officer Jose Torres to the meeting.

In response to questions from Boardmember Russell, Officer Torres affirmed that he did intend to add an injury to his existing Accidental Disability Retirement Application and both injuries were orthopedic in nature and duty-related.

Boardmember Russell expressed no concern regarding the addition of the new injury to the application and requested that Officer Torres return to the Board with additional medical records. Officer Torres explained to the Board that the process of obtaining his Veterans Affairs medical records could take additional time due to the federal government shutdown.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that the Accidental Disability Retirement Application for Police Officer Jose Torres, be continued for 60 days to obtain additional medical records.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Lien-Mickelsen-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler-Heirshberg

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire and Police Pension Boards adjourned at 2:30 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025. 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

vw  
(Attachment – 1)

\*Those highlighted elected to participate exclusively in DC Plan. Employer needs to ensure that in their contribution uploads they include the applicable Disability and Subsidy contributions \*

[illegible]