



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LOCAL FIRE AND POLICE PENSION BOARD MEETING
July 17, 2025**

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Board of Mesa, Arizona, was held in Conference Room 170 W, 20 E. Main Street, 1st Floor, July 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen, Chair
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)
Chris Fifield (Fire)
Marc Heirshberg (Citizen Member)
Ryan A. Russell (Police)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Scott Butler, City Manager
Nick Lien (Police)
Holly Moseley, City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Brunyer (Applicant)
Caleb Brunyer
Scott Figgins
Melissa Green
Henry Guillen (Applicant)
Cynthia Kelley
Nitra Hawkins
Emily Nichols
Crystal Parks
Ann Redwine
Marie Reece
Tina Rogers
Jose Torres (Applicant)
Joseph Zwemke

Chairperson Mickelsen conducted a roll call.

Chairperson Mickelsen excused Scott Butler and Nick Lien from the entire meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of June 19, 2025.

It was moved by Boardmember Heirshberg, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of June 19, 2025, be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

FIRE PENSION BOARD

Chairperson Mickelsen called to order the Local Fire Pension Board at 11:01 a.m.

2. Discuss and take action on the re-hire of PSPRS member Forrest Smith to Deputy Director – Mesa Public Safety Support.

Human Resources Administrator Tina Rogers stated that Forrest Smith retired as Assistant Fire Chief with the City of Mesa Fire Department effective May 1, 2025, and recently competed in an open, competitive recruitment process for the civilian, non-PSPRS position of Deputy Director – Mesa Public Safety Support.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Fifield, that the re-hire of retired PSPRS member Forrest Smith, to Deputy Director – Mesa Public Safety Support, 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 – Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Mickelsen

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability application of Firefighter Eric Brunyer.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Firefighter Eric Brunyer to the meeting. She stated that the Local Board had reviewed the independent medical evaluation (IME) of Dr. Stevens which confirmed that Firefighter Brunyer does suffer from the claimed disability that occurred on the job, that his condition permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties as a Firefighter, that there are no pre-existing conditions that contributed to the claimed disability, and there are no conflicts in the medical evidence.

It was moved by Boardmember Fifield, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Firefighter Eric Brunyer, be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Castaneda-Fifield-Heirshberg-Mickelsen

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

Chairperson Mickelsen called to order the Local Police Pension Board at 11:04 a.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 applicants Zachary Bryan, Joshua Mapel, Jester Granados, Nicholas Peeler, Donald Reynolds, and Trevor Sanders have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lien, that Police applicants Zachary Bryan, Joshua Mapel, Jester Granados, Nicholas Peeler, Donald Reynolds, and Trevor Sanders be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Heirshberg-Mickelsen-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler-Lien

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Discuss and take action on the re-hire of PSPRS member Anthony Abalos to Police Dispatch Manager.

Human Resources Administrator Tina Rogers stated that Anthony Abalos retired as a Police Commander with the City of Mesa Police Department effective November 30, 2024, and recently competed in an open, competitive recruitment process for the civilian, non-PSPRS position of Police Dispatch Manager.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Heirshberg, that the re-hire of retired PSPRS member Anthony Abalos, to Police Dispatch Manager, 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 – Heirshberg-Mickelsen-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler-Lien

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability application of Police Officer Henry Guillen.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Police Officer Henry Guillen to the meeting. She stated that the Local Board has reviewed the independent medical evaluation (IME) of Dr. Stevens. She encouraged the Local Board to discuss and pose any questions they may have regarding the IME. Boardmember Russell noted that no supplemental questions were submitted to Dr. Stevens as Officer Guillen addressed any concerns regarding pre-existing conditions at his first hearing.

Boardmember Russell addressed Question #5, which concerns pre-existing conditions that may have contributed to the accidental disability application. He stated that while Officer Guillen did have pre-existing injuries, those injuries had healed prior to his employment with the Mesa Police Department, and that Officer Guillen was able to perform his duties of Police Officer. He further noted that while the pre-existing conditions were identified in the IME, these injuries were not the direct cause of disability.

Chairperson Mickelsen stated that the IME confirmed Officer Guillen does suffer from the claimed disability that occurred on the job, that his condition permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties as a Police Officer, that any pre-existing conditions outlined in the IME have been resolved by the Local Board, and that there were no conflicts in the medical evidence.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Heirshberg, that the Local Board has resolved any conflicts indicated in the IME and that Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Henry Guillen be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Heirshberg-Mickelsen-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler-Lien

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

(The Local Police Pension Board recessed at 11:10 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 11:16 a.m.)

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

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Police Officer Jose Torres to the meeting and asked him to explain to the Local Board the timeline of his injuries and his current medical treatment.

Police Officer Torres noted that he is currently receiving medical treatment from the Office of Veteran's Affairs (VA). Boardmember Russell stated that in order for the Local Board to proceed with his application, the medical records from the VA would need to be provided for review and that a statement from his current VA physician noting that he has met maximum medical improvement and cannot fully perform the duties of a Police Officer should be provided.

Chairperson Mickelsen indicated that in view of the absence of further questions from the Board, she would entertain a motion.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Heirshberg, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application for Police Officer Torres be tabled for sixty days in order for Officer Torres to retrieve the medical records from the VA and obtain the requested documentation from his current physician.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Heirshberg-Mickelsen-Russell

NAYS - None

ABSENT – Butler-Lien

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 11:21 a.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 17th day of July 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

VW