



JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

October 3, 2018

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 October 3, 2018 at 7:45 a.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Wade Swanson, Chairman
Kevin Humphrey
Daniel Kiley
Gordon Sheffield
Charles Wirken

BOARD ABSENT

Michael Brown
May Costa

STAFF PRESENT

Nicole Fazio
Agnes Goodwine
Melissa Hollenbeck
Alfred Smith
Matt Tafoya
Paul Thomas

Chairman Swanson excused Boardmembers Brown and Costa from the entire meeting.

1. Introduce new Boardmembers.

Chairman Swanson welcomed newly appointed Boardmembers Kevin Humphrey, Daniel Kiley and Charles Wirken to the Judicial Advisory Board. Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Kiley and Mr. Wirken provided a brief synopsis of their personal and professional backgrounds.

2. Elect Chair and Vice Chair.

It was moved by Boardmember Kiley, seconded by Boardmember Sheffield, that Boardmember Swanson be appointed as Chairperson of the Judicial Advisory Board.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Humphrey-Kiley-Sheffield-Wirken
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Brown-Costa
ABSTAIN – Swanson

Chairman Swanson declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

It was moved by Chairperson Swanson, seconded by Boardmember Kiley, that Boardmember Sheffield be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Judicial Advisory Board.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Swanson-Humphrey-Kiley-Wirken
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Brown-Costa
ABSTAIN – Sheffield

Chairman Swanson declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

4. Hear an update on the Mesa City Court from Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya.

Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya addressed the Board and welcomed the new Boardmembers. He encouraged all Boardmembers to visit and tour the Mesa City Court.

Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya described the Mesa City Court and advised the arraignment and in-custody courts have recently been restructured. He introduced Court Administrator Paul Thomas and credited Mr. Thomas for working with the Supreme Court to allow Rule 11 evaluations and competency hearings to be conducted at the Mesa City Court. He added Rule 11 evaluations are now being completed within 4 to 6 days as opposed to 9 to 12 months.

Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya provided the Boardmembers with a brochure that details the Mesa Community Court. (**See Attachment 1**) He reported the Mesa Community Court was created in July 2018 and is considered a specialty court. He explained the Mesa Community Court was created to provide assistance to individuals who have committed low level offenses and are also experiencing homelessness, unemployment, have dependency issues or mental health issues. He advised since the Mesa Community Court has been taking cases several individuals have successfully received assistance. He added if the defendant complies with the services offered the prosecutor's office can reduce the penalty or dismiss the case altogether.

Mr. Thomas commented that the Mesa Community Court is new to Arizona. He advised other cities in the valley have expressed interest in duplicating the same court model. He explained the Mesa Community Court is very mission oriented and the entire community is coming together to reach the same goal. He added the Mesa Community Court is a new way to identify and address social problems individuals are experiencing.

In response to a question posed by Boardmember Humphrey, Mr. Thomas reported that statistics for the Mesa Community Court are expected to be published after the court has been operating for one year.

In response to a question posed by Boardmember Kiley, Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya advised individuals declared incompetent will be navigated to services offered by the Mesa Community Court.

Chairman Swanson thanked Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya and Mr. Thomas for providing an update on the Mesa City Court. He encouraged all Boardmembers to take a tour of the Mesa City Court and Mesa Community Court.

5. Review and discuss policies, schedule and work plan for the Board related to the upcoming reappointment of three City Magistrates:

- (1) Lisa Johnson
- (2) Craig Fujii
- (3) John Tatz

Chairman Swanson reviewed the question/interview process.

Chairman Swanson advised he is unable to attend the meeting scheduled for March 6, 2019 and requested the meeting be changed to either February 27, 2019 or March 20, 2019. The Boardmembers did not object to the change.

Chairman Swanson proposed adjusting the March 2019 meeting time from 4:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. due to the anticipated length of the meeting. The Boardmembers did not object to the change.

Chairman Swanson advised a new schedule would be updated and distributed to the Boardmembers in the near future.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Next meeting:

February 6, 2019, 7:45 a.m.
Lower Level Council Chambers
57 E. First Street

7. Adjourn.

It was moved by Boardmember Wirken, seconded by Boardmember Humphrey, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Swanson-Sheffield-Humphrey-Kiley- Wirken
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Brown-Costa

Chairman Swanson declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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 3rd day of October, 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK



Defendants who commit these crimes are frequently homeless and may struggle with alcohol or drug addiction and mental illness. Our traditional criminal justice model does not and cannot address these issues. Relying on jail as the sole sanction does not address the underlying problems that drive recidivism by this population, and creates cost with little or no result.

These defendants are a part of our community and are challenged by the most difficult of life circumstances, many suffer mental illness. The community is affected by this situation in many ways, and in a sense both the community and the defendant are victims. The Community Court can be an effective alternative within the justice system, but should only be a part of the larger community response to this problem.

MESA

COMMUNITY COURT



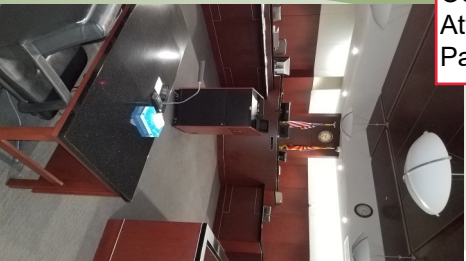
*"A nation's greatness is measured
by how it treats its weakest members."*

- Mahatma Gandhi

WELCOME TO

MESA COMMUNITY COURT

Connecting defendants to the resources they need



Mesa Community Court serves chronic justice system offenders who commit low level crimes, fail to comply with court orders, or who fail to appear for Court. These offenders can be more effectively rehabilitated through alternative strategies. The Mesa Community Court is intended to provide a combined response of services needed by the defendant, and a mitigation of sanctions based on the progress of the defendant.

The Mesa Community Court recognizes that low level offenses are rooted in social circumstances, such as homelessness, mental health issues, unemployment, and chemical dependency. The response to these issues requires an extensive collaborative effort by the range of community resources. The Community Court serves to bring together that combination of resources and services suited to the defendant's needs and the oversight of the court.



ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES

- ✓ Community justice services
- ✓ Homeless, unemployment, chemical dependency, mental health services
- ✓ Other community services and referrals available

Community Services

Collaborative Effort & Outreach community resources

Broad based eligibility

The Mesa Community Court has broad based eligibility and is not offense specific. In other words, any recognition by law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, or judges of underlying social problems as primary contributors to the offense may refer the case to Community Court.

The Court will operate a special docket to isolate these cases so the defendant can be connected to appropriate resources. At the time of arraignment, the defendant's first court appearance, the case may be deferred to allow time for evaluating the defendant's circumstances and coordinating appropriate services. As defendants engage in communicating with their services, the prosecutor will consider a possible dismissal based on each case's circumstances and progress.

**Community Court is conducted on
Mondays and Wednesdays
from 2:00 – 5:00 PM in Courtroom #202**