



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA  
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE  
FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in Conference Room 170, 20 E. Main Street, 1st Floor, February 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dee Ann Mickelsen, Chair  
Kurt Castaneda (Fire)  
Stephen Lentz (Police)\*  
Ryan A. Russell (Police)  
Jenny Sheppard (Citizen Member)  
David Silides (Fire)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Chris Brady, City Manager

**STAFF PRESENT**

Vanessa Liristis, Sr. Program Asst.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Hugo Barrera (Applicant)  
Josh Blum  
Meggin Dahse  
Nick Eggert  
Yolando Fierros  
Scott Figgins  
Melissa Green  
Nitra Hawkins  
Chris Hayes  
Travis Hyde  
Wade Johnston  
Cynthia Kelley  
Kaleb Krick  
Jose Molina  
Teri Overbey  
Crystal Parks  
Marie Reece  
Tina Rogers  
Alec Shervheim  
Logan Shidawara  
Brandon Wall (Applicant)  
Sam Wilcox

(\*Participated telephonically.)

Chairperson Mickelsen excused Boardmember Brady from the meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of January 18, 2024.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of January 18, 2024 be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Castaneda-Lentz-Mickelsen-Russell-Sheppard-Silides  
NAYS - None  
ABSENT – Brady

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

### **FIRE PENSION BOARD**

**2. Certification of full-time Firefighters pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-842.24(B), 38-842.27, 38-842.31 and 38-847(D)1.**

Subsequent to a review of all medical reports, Local Boardmembers requested the record reflect that applicants Anderson Cooper, Justin Chrzanowski, Karli Fawcett, Zachary Fishel, Emalee Glover, Peter Hariri, Joseph Hernandez, Victor Irizarry, Remy Jordan, Brayden Kobylinski, Salvador Lopez, Maxwell Luarca, Jesus Malanche, Zachary Moore, Bennett Nejadeh, Justin Parsons, Joseph Pita Jr., Shawon Potts, Andrea Seville, Mason Smith, Timothy Stern, Lauren Veselovsky, Sebastian Villafuerte Suarez, Richard Wallace, Cody Wehr, and Devon Wibeto have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Castaneda, seconded by Boardmember Silides, that Firefighter applicants Anderson Cooper, Justin Chrzanowski, Karli Fawcett, Zachary Fishel, Emalee Glover, Peter Hariri, Joseph Hernandez, Victor Irizarry, Remy Jordan, Brayden Kobylinski, Salvador Lopez, Maxwell Luarca, Jesus Malanche, Zachary Moore, Bennett Nejadeh, Justin Parsons, Joseph Pita Jr., Shawon Potts, Andrea Seville, Mason Smith, Timothy Stern, Lauren Veselovsky, Sebastian Villafuerte Suarez, Richard Wallace, Cody Wehr, and Devon Wibeto be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Castaneda-Mickelsen-Sheppard-Silides  
NAYS - None  
ABSENT - Brady

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

**3. Discuss and take action on the rehire of retired PSPRS member Tony Reiter to Solid Waste Equipment Operator II.**

Human Resources Director Teri Overbey stated that Tony Reiter retired as a Fire Engineer with the Phoenix Fire Department effective 07/01/2022 and recently competed in an open, competitive recruitment process for the civilian, non-supervisory, non-PSPRS position of Solid Waste Equipment Operator II.

It was moved by Boardmember Silides, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the rehire of retired PSPRS member Tony Reiter to Solid Waste Equipment Operator II, 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-Mickelsen-Sheppard-Silides  
NAYS - None  
ABSENT - Brady

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

(The Local Fire Pension Board recessed at 11:13 a.m. in order to convene an Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 11:24 a.m.)

4. Discuss and take action on the Catastrophic Disability Retirement application of Fire Captain Hugo Barrera.

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Fire Captain Hugo Barrera to the meeting. She stated that the Local Board has reviewed the IME of Dr. Giraldo Kato. She encouraged the members to discuss and pose any questions they may have regarding the IME report.

Boardmember Silides stated that although the IME report is relatively short, it is clear and supports an approval of Catastrophic Disability.

Boardmember Castaneda advised that the Local Board has not previously decided on an application of Catastrophic Disability, so he sought clarification from PSPRS by phone after reviewing Dr. Kato's IME report. He stated that PSPRS advised that it would be helpful to seek more detail from Dr. Kato in regard to gainful employment.

Chairperson Mickelsen advised that the IME report clearly lists Mr. Barrera's limitations which qualify him for Catastrophic Disability. She read aloud the following portions of Dr. Kato's IME report and requested her narrative be included in the minutes as public record: *The injury totally prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties within the employee's job classification. Because of the large mediastinal dissection, he has shortness of breath on exertion. He has fatigue with activity and limits his activity to perform his duty as a Firefighter. He also has limited range of motion which prohibits his activity. His physical injury totally prevents the employee from engaging in any gainful employment, because he is not able to concentrate and has shortness of breath. His injury permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties within the employee's job classification. He has limited range of motion, shortness of breath, and limited physical activity. His physical injury permanently prevents the employee from engaging in any gainful employment, because of the limited activity, the shortness of breath, and the limited range of motion.* She commented that Dr. Kato repeatedly stresses that Mr. Barrera's condition prevents him from engaging in gainful employment, which is the qualifier for Catastrophic Disability. She advised that she believes the criteria of gainful employment has been previously defined as performing a moderate amount of work, for at least four hours a day, four days per week, in a sedentary position, and in a minimum wage job.

Boardmember Castaneda stated that although Dr. Kato has been clear that Mr. Barrera is not capable of gainful employment, he would like him to confirm that he is using the same criteria of gainful employment as defined by previous approval of Catastrophic Disability.

It was moved by Boardmember Silides, seconded by Boardmember Castaneda, that the Catastrophic Disability Retirement application of Fire Captain Hugo Barrera be approved contingent on Dr. Kato's confirmation of the previously defined criteria of gainful employment.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES –Castaneda-Mickelsen-Sheppard-Silides  
NAYS - None  
ABSENT - Brady

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

The Local Board thanked Fire Captain Hugo Barrera for his service to the City.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

### **POLICE PENSION BOARD**

**5. 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 reports, Local Boardmembers requested the record reflect that applicants Thomas Angstead, Kailan Camacho, Gabriel Cobb, Travis DeMuth, Joshua Gil, Brayton Johnson, Keshon Jones, Petya Lozanova, Wilder Salas, and Garrett Spencer have pre-existing medical conditions.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that Law Enforcement applicants Thomas Angstead, Kailan Camacho, Gabriel Cobb, Travis DeMuth, Joshua Gil, Brayton Johnson, Keshon Jones, Petya Lozanova, Wilder Salas, and Garrett Spencer be certified subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Lentz-Mickelsen-Russell-Sheppard  
NAYS - None  
ABSENT – Brady

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

**6. Discuss and take action on the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Brandon Wall.**

Chairperson Mickelsen welcomed Police Officer Brandon Wall to the meeting. She advised that the Local Board has reviewed the IME of Dr. Scott Kirkorsky. She encouraged the members to discuss and pose any questions they may have regarding the IME report.

Boardmember Russell stated that the IME report confirms that Officer Wall does suffer from the claimed disability, that his condition permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties of a Police Officer, that his condition was incurred while performing his duties as a Police Officer, and there are no pre-existing conditions that contributed to the claimed disability. He added that Dr. Kirkorsky indicated three medical conflicts that the Local Board can resolve. The first conflict was a lack of contemporaneous documentation, meaning treatment was not sought until there was a significant onset of symptoms, which the Local Board finds to be a common occurrence and not a conflict. He commented that Police Officers don't often seek immediate treatment after the first sign of an issue and that the Police Department is currently

working on a program to change that. The second conflict was related to undocumented therapy, which the Local Board does not consider to be a conflict, as Dr. Kirkorsky was able to form an opinion without it, and the inclusion of such documentation would not have changed his opinion. The third conflict, which is also not considered a conflict by the Local Board, is in relation to additional treatment that Dr. Kirkorsky recommends and avoidance of further exposure that could aggravate Officer Wall's condition further. He concluded that the Local Board considers all conflicts resolved.

Boardmember Lentz stated that he concurs with all of Boardmember Russell's statements and agrees that all conflicts have been resolved.

It was moved by Boardmember Russell, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Brandon Wall be approved and that all conflicts have been resolved by the Local Board.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Lentz-Mickelsen-Russell-Sheppard  
NAYS - None  
ABSENT - Brady

Chairperson Mickelsen declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

The Local Board thanked Police Officer Brandon Wall for his service to the City.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Police Pension Board meeting of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 15th day of February 2024. 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