



JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

July 21, 2014

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 July 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Peter Lesar, Chairman
Phillip Austin
David P. Brooks
Margaret Downie
Pat Esparza
Robin Harris
Teresa Sanders

BOARD ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Michael Claspell
Nicole Fazzio
Kelly Gregan
Debbie Spinner
Matt Tafoya
Paul Thomas

1. Public interview of candidates for the position of City Magistrate.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to the following candidates: Lisa Peters; Fidelis Garcia; Paula Burgess; Craig Fujii; Stephen Kupiszewski; Sherri Rollison; Martha Ashburn; Nancy Sorensen; Bruce Owens; Robert Jarvis and Charles Adornetto.

2. Items from citizens present.

Linda Chumley, Operations Area Manager and Senior Vice President for Wells Fargo Bank, offered a series of comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Paula Burgess. Ms. Chumley stated that she has known Ms. Burgess for 20 years. She described Ms. Burgess as an honest, fair, unbiased, thoughtful, humble and calm individual with the highest level of integrity. Ms. Chumley also remarked that Ms. Burgess is very thoughtful about obtaining all the information related to a situation and is focused on being fair and doing the right thing. Ms. Chumley concluded her comments by stating that Ms. Burgess has the character and integrity necessary for the City Magistrate position and added that she would trust her to handle any case with the utmost propriety.

Deborah Dellis offered comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Paula Burgess. Ms. Dellis stated that she has known Ms. Burgess for 28 years in a variety of capacities. Ms. Dellis stressed that Ms. Burgess is hardworking, dedicated, organized, diligent, ethical, honest, intelligent, calm and possesses a high level of integrity. Ms. Dellis also noted that Ms. Burgess

is a great communicator both verbally and in writing, a trusted legal advisor, a treasured friend and a great candidate for the City Magistrate position.

Antoine Coffey, CEO and Executive Director for the Air Conditioning Contractors Association, offered comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Fidelis Garcia. Mr. Coffey stated that he has known Mr. Garcia for several years and explained that Mr. Garcia is the General Counsel for the Air Conditioning Contractors Association. Mr. Coffey noted that Mr. Garcia is hard working and has provided several thousands of dollars in pro bono legal service, is always available when needed and works well with the industry.

Lee Stephenson Birkhold, the development director of an international non-profit organization, offered comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Paula Burgess. Ms. Birkhold stated that she has known Ms. Burgess for over 10 years as a good friend and echoed the previous comments regarding Ms. Burgess' character. Ms. Birkhold described Ms. Burgess as hard working, and truthful, with a great deal of integrity and independence. She also noted that Ms. Burgess displays these attributes in her work, with her family and in the community.

Lynn Arouh, Town Prosecutor for the Town of Gilbert for the past 16 years, offered a series of comments in support of Bruce Owens. Ms. Arouh stated that she hired Mr. Owens 15 years ago as an Assistant Town Prosecutor and became very familiar with his work ethic before Mr. Owens began working as a Hearing Officer with the Gilbert Town Court. Ms. Arouh described Mr. Owens as a hard-working, caring, considerate and ethical attorney. She remarked that she had appeared before him in his capacity as a Pro Tem Judge and found him to be considerate in making decisions based on integrity and noted that he is a minister of justice. Ms. Arouh added that she had no hesitation in strongly recommending Mr. Owens for the position of City Magistrate.

Alison Ferrante, Assistant Town Prosecutor for the Town of Gilbert and an adjunct professor at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, offered her comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Bruce Owens. Ms. Ferrante stated that Mr. Owens interviewed her for the position she now holds as Assistant Town Prosecutor and described him as a leader and the "go to" person in the absence of the Town Prosecutor. Ms. Ferrante remarked that Mr. Owens is patient, fair and thoroughly reviews all cases before him. She added that he holds all parties accountable in a fair manner and that other Gilbert Town Court staff have nothing but good things to say about him. Ms. Ferrante concluded her remarks by stating that she highly recommends Mr. Owens for the City Magistrate position and that the loss for the Town of Gilbert would be a gain for the City of Mesa.

Susan Hamblin Hawkins, a City of Phoenix Prosecutor for five years and currently a Public Defender, offered a series of comments in support of City Magistrate candidate Martha Ashburn. Ms. Hawkins stated that Ms. Ashburn has been a mentor for her and is extremely ethical. Ms. Hawkins also remarked that Ms. Ashburn goes above and beyond in her work, has been a friend and supporter and relays to defendants what they need to know. Ms. Hawkins stated that Ms. Ashburn would be a great City Magistrate and that the City of Mesa would get its money's worth.

Chairman Lesar thanked those providing comments for their participation in the process.

3. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Boardmember Brooks, seconded by Boardmember Austin, that an Executive Session be convened at 3:59 p.m., to discuss the top candidates for City Magistrate and to assign reference checks.

Chairman Lesar declared the motion carried unanimously.

a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of the City. (A.R.S. 38-431.03A(1))

1. Appointment of two Magistrates –
Board to select top candidates; assign reference checks

(At 5:07 p.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the Board meeting.)

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information:

Next meeting:

August 11, 2014, 7:45 a.m.
Lower Level Council Chambers
57 E. First Street.

5. Adjournment.

It was moved by Boardmember Esparza, seconded by Boardmember Brooks, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Chairman Lesar declared the motion carried unanimously.

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 21st day of July 2014. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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