

September 11, 2014

TO: CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: MAYOR ALEX FINTER

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS TO A DOWNTOWN VISION AD-HOC COMMITTEE

With significant contributions and insights from District 4 Councilmember and Vice Mayor Christopher Glover, the following are my recommendations for appointments to a Downtown Vision Ad-hoc Committee:

Jo Wilson (Chair)—Ms. Wilson serves as Senior Administrator and Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President of Benedictine University at Mesa. She's been previously honored as Mesa Community College Woman of Distinction, Mesa Woman of the Year and serves on her wide array of community involvement efforts, including service on Mesa boards and commissions, the Mesa Chamber of Commerce Board, the Mesa Arts Center Foundation Board, Mesa Rotary (currently President-Elect), as well as several other community agencies and committees.

Steve Chucri—A Mesa native, Mr. Chucri currently serves as President and CEO of the Arizona Restaurant Association and as District 2 Maricopa County Supervisor where he focuses on policies focused on innovation, sustainability and in growing the business 'best of the best' cache in the County.

Debby Elliott—A Mesa native, Ms. Elliott and her husband Mike Elliott have been long-time advocates of arts and culture in Mesa, serving on the Mesa Arts Center Board, and are the namesake fundraising sponsors of the Nesbitt-Elliott Playhouse at the Mesa Arts Center. Most recently, Ms. Elliott serves on the MARC Center Community Resource Board, which serves those with cognitive, emotional and physical disabilities.

Charles Huellmantel— Mr. Huellmantel is a local attorney and partner of Mesa Housing Associates, the team that built "Encore on First Avenue," providing important housing for seniors and allowing them to become part of Mesa's burgeoning downtown.

Marco Meraz-- Mr. Meraz is a Mesa native. In 2012, he and his family opened a Latin-inspired cuisine restaurant in downtown Mesa, called Republica Empanada. Mr. Meraz serves on the Mesa Urban Garden Advisory Board, the R.A.I.L. (Retail, Arts, Innovation and Livability) alliance, and also works with local merchants and agencies to improve and grow Downtown Mesa.

Rich Marchant--- Mr. Marchant is the Executive Vice-President of Operations for Crescent Crown Distributing LLC, located in downtown Mesa. He has lived In Mesa since 1974. He's been honored with the Arizona Public Service Company's Wayne Farnsworth Award for service to the community, serves as an Executive Board member of The Greater Phoenix Economic Council and on the Mesa Chamber of Commerce Business Expansion Council.

Lorenzo Perez-- Co-owner of the local Venue Projects, a design-centered, redevelopment, investment and construction real estate practice in the Valley, Mr. Perez works to transform urban and historical places and finding ways through design and architecture to promote community, serve and celebrate nature. He is Realtor and a member of the Urban Land Institute and the Arizona Multihousing Association.

This ad-hoc committee is charged with developing a shared vision and broad goals to help chart the future growth of Downtown Mesa and to ensure that growth is in alignment with stakeholder and community interests. Their work is planned to be begin shortly and be completed in spring 2015.