

July 3, 2023

TO: CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: MAYOR JOHN GILES

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Committees

The following are my recommendations for appointments to City of Mesa Advisory Boards and Committees.

**Board of Adjustment** – Seven-member board including new appointments.

Shelly Allen, District 2. Ms. Allen is a retired City of Mesa employee with experience in economic development. Ms. Allen holds a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix and a master's of public administration from Arizona State University. Her first term ends June 30, 2026.

**Building Board of Appeals** – Nine-member board including new appointments.

Gary Golka, District 1. Mr. Golka is President of Golka Electric, Inc. He earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Northern Arizona University and a master's degree in business administration from Arizona State University. He holds both L-11 and C-11 electrical contracting licenses from the State of Arizona and will be filling the position of electrical engineer on the board. His first term expires June 30, 2026.

**Economic Development Advisory Board** – Nine-member board including new appointments.

Bill Hunsaker, District 5. Mr. Hunsaker is managing director and designated broker for Jones Lang Lasalle Americas, Inc., a commercial real estate brokerage firm. He earned a bachelor's degree in real estate finance from the University of Southern California. His first term ends June 30, 2026.

Amanda Kay, District 6. Dr. Kay is a pharmacist supervisor in fulfillment operations at OptimRx. She earned a bachelor's degree in applied science from Centenary College of Louisiana and a doctorate in pharmacy from Texas Tech University. Dr. Kay is also a registered pharmacist. Her first term ends June 30, 2026.

G. Sonny Cave, District 5. Mr. Cave is a retired founding executive from ON Semiconductor Corporation. He earned a bachelor's degree in botany from Duke

University, a master's degree in botany/plant ecology from Arizona State University and a juris doctorate from the University of Colorado School of Law. His first ex-officio term ends June 30, 2026.

**Historic Preservation Board** – Eleven-member board including new appointments.

Jessica Sarkissian, District 5. Ms. Sarkissian is owner of UpFront Consulting & Entitlements, LLC. She earned a bachelor's degree in regional development from the University of Arizona and a master's degree in community planning from Northern Arizona University. She recently served on the Planning and Zoning Board. Her first term ends June 30, 2026.

**Housing Governing Board** – Membership includes City Council and one community member.

Doug Laird, District 5. Mr. Laird Doug Laird is a Project-Based Voucher participant since December 17, 2014 and is in good standing with the housing program. He has been actively participating in the Housing Resident Advisory Board since February 19, 2021. He also participates in volunteering events hosted by A New Leaf and by La Mesita apartments. His partial term ends December 31, 2023.

**Housing & Community Development Advisory Board** – Eleven-member board including new appointments.

LaGrant Jackson, District 6. Mr. Jackson is an Account Manager II at Medimpact and has more than 10 years' experience in sales. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Arizona State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. His first term ends June 30, 2026.

**Human Relations Advisory Board** – Eleven-member board including new appointments.

Abram Ellsworth, District 4. Mr. Ellsworth is COO at Rocket Lister, a talent acquisition, coaching and empowerment company. He earned a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Charter Oak State College and an MBA from the University of Arizona. His first term ends June 30, 2026.

**Library Advisory Board** – Nine-member board including new appointments.

Lonica Rowley, District 1. Ms. Rowley is currently a substitute teacher at Mesa Public Schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Arizona State University and a master's degree in library and information science from Kent State University. Her first term ends June 30, 2026.

**Museum & Cultural Advisory Board** – Eleven-member board including new appointments.

Andre Miller, District 6. Mr. Miller is a police chaplain in Apache Junction and lead pastor at New Beginnings Church. He earned a bachelor's degree in biblical theory from Grand Canyon University. Mr. Miller is also a US Army Veteran. His first term ends June 30, 2026.

**Parks & Recreation Board** – Eleven-member board including new appointments.

Benjamin Manning, District 5. Mr. Manning is a commercial appraiser trainer at the Maricopa County Assessor's Office. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Radford University in Radford, VA. His first term ends June 30, 2026.

**Personnel Appeals Board** – Five-member board including new appointments.

Dr. Catherine Jiang, District 1. Dr. Jiang owns the Law Office of Catherine Jiang, PLLC. She has earned many degrees including a juris doctorate from the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law and a bachelor's degree in economics from Seoul National University. Her first term ends June 30, 2026.

Dr. Christopher Nickerson, District 6. Dr. Nickerson is director of provider network development at Banner Health. He has earned many degrees including a bachelor's degree in communication disorders and master's degree in audiology from the University of Northern Colorado and a doctoral degree in audiology from Florida State University. His first term expires June 30, 2026.

**Planning & Zoning Board** – Seven-member board including new appointments.

Jaime Blakeman, District 5. Ms. Blakeman is CEO of Lōkahi, LLC, a disadvantaged and small business enterprise. She earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Hawaii. She is a Professional Engineer and Professional Traffic Operations Engineer. Her first term ends June 30, 2026.

Jayson Carpenter, District 3. Mr. Carpenter is a lead land management agent at Salt River Project. He earned a bachelor's degree in real estate from Arizona State University and an MBA from Western International University. He is a Senior Right of Way Agent. His first term ends June 30, 2026.

**Transportation Advisory Board** – Eleven-member board including new appointments.

Lea Bertoni, District 1. Ms. Bertoni is an occupational therapist and driver rehabilitation specialist at Driving to Independence. She earned a bachelor's degree in health science

and a master's degree in occupational therapy from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. Her first term ends June 30, 2026.

Rob Crist, District 5. Mr. Crist is vice president and controller at Robert Crist and Company RV. He earned a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting from the University of Arizona. His first term ends June 30, 2026.