

July 16, 2026

TO: CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: MAYOR MARK FREEMAN

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Committees

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

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

Leonna Anderson, District 3. Ms. Anderson is a recruiter at the Tyson & Mendes law firm. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication with an emphasis in public relations from Missouri State University. Her partial term will expire June 30, 2027.

Quintin Evans, District 5. Mr. Evans is the founder and lead developer of Get Your Pet A Vet. He earned an associate's degree in general studies from Mesa Community College and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southern New Hampshire University and. His partial term will expire June 30, 2027.

Josh Lopeman, District 6. Mr. Lopeman is a principal architect at COLE Architects. He earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a master's degree in architecture from Arizona State University. His first term will expire June 30, 2029.

Jessica Mueller, District 1. Ms. Mueller is a policy and research administrator at the Arizona State Board of Education. She holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and family and human development and a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University. Her partial term will expire June 30, 2028.

Tanner Nelson, District 4. Mr. Nelson is a commercial insurance producer at LeBaron Carroll Insurance. He earned an associate's degree in business management from Mesa Community College and a bachelor's degree in business legal studies from Arizona State University. His partial term will expire June 30, 2026.

The following appointments are for Council acknowledgment:

Education and Workforce Development Roundtable – Seventeen-member board including the new appointments.

Standing Position (ongoing; term remains with position)

Dr. Jared Ryan. Dr. Ryan, Superintendent of Gilbert Public Schools, is being appointed to the Education and Workforce Roundtable as a standing member. Prior to his current role, Dr. Ryan served as the executive director of strategic initiatives at Gilbert Public Schools. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, a master's degree in educational leadership from Arizona State University, a superintendency certification from Northern Arizona University, and ABD status in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University.

Economic Development Advisory Board – Seventeen-member board comprised of nine voting resident members and eight nonvoting ex officio members, including the new appointments.

GPEC Board of Directors, Ex Officio Member (ongoing; term remains with position)

Councilmember Rich Adams, District 1. Councilmember Adams began his first term representing District 1 in January 2025. He is the president and CEO of Southwest Business Credit Services and a founding director of Gateway Commercial Bank of Mesa. He holds the Certified Credit Executive, Certified Credit Professional and Certified Association Executive designations.

Mesa Local Fire Pension Board – Five-member board including the new appointments.

Benjamin Wehunt. Captain Wehunt was recently elected to the Fire Department Pension Board by the sworn membership in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System of the State of Arizona. He currently serves as a captain with the Mesa Fire and Medical Department. His first term will expire June 30, 2030.

Mesa Local Police Pension Board – Five-member board including the new appointments.

Amanda Cook. Officer Cook was recently elected to the Police Department Pension Board by the sworn membership in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System of the State of Arizona. She has served as a police officer with the Mesa Police Department for 10 years and currently serves as a traffic officer and field training officer in the Traffic Unit. Her first term will expire June 30, 2030.