

# JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

July 31, 2024

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 31, 2024, at 7:47 a.m.

## BOARD PRESENT

Kent Cattani, Chairperson  
Theo McCalvin, Vice Chair  
Keith Berkshire  
Kelley Durham  
Kelli Flinchbaugh  
Sonia Martinez  
Joshua Rogers

## BOARD ABSENT

None

## STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Anderson  
Carrie Pile  
Alfred Smith

### 1. Meeting called to order and roll call.

Chairperson Cattani called the meeting to order at 7:47 a.m. and conducted a roll call.

### 2. Approve minutes from the June 26, 2024, meeting.

It was moved by Boardmember Flinchbaugh, seconded by Boardmember Durham, that the June 26, 2024, Judicial Advisory Board meeting minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cattani–McCalvin–Berkshire–Durham–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers

NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

### 3. Items from citizens present.

Patricia George, Phoenix Municipal Court Judge, spoke in support of Kerry Rait. She commented that she has worked with Ms. Rait in multiple capacities over the past 20 years, observing her personally in a professional setting. She mentioned Ms. Rait's extensive experience in the Prosecutor's office, specifically showcasing her knowledge of charging, is a testament to her qualifications. She indicated that Ms. Rait exhibits a calm demeanor and could seamlessly transition into the position.

Kristin Culbertson, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge, provided comments supporting Kevin Breger. She said she has worked with Mr. Breger in the past and commented on his excellent knowledge of the law, good demeanor, and great ethics. She added Mr. Breger has a remarkable ability to handle cases with empathy and compassion and treats staff and anybody

in the courtroom with dignity and respect. She supports and recommends Mr. Breger for the City Magistrate position.

Lauren Ramirez, Gilbert Municipal Court Judge, voiced her support for Kevin Breger. She explained that she has tried cases against Mr. Breger and has observed him treat people with dignity and respect. She noted Mr. Breger has an excellent work ethic and serves on the State Bar of Arizona Animal Law Executive Council. She shared her support, along with several Gilbert Municipal Court Judges, confirming Mr. Breger's suitability for the position.

Martha Ashburn, Attorney, spoke in support of Geoffrey Balon. She stated that a judicial temperament is critical for this role and that Mr. Balon exhibits this quality. She mentioned that Mr. Balon has extensive knowledge of the law and is trained in dealing with matters of mental health through his years of experience in Community Court. She explained that Mr. Balon is pro-justice and will ensure that people's constitutional rights are observed. She remarked that Mr. Balon works well with staff and is passionate about helping people. She affirmed Mr. Balon is a perfect candidate for the City of Mesa Magistrate position.

The following citizens submitted comments for Board review in support of Ruben Aranda:

- Laurie Grogan
- Scott Silva
- Kelly Schwab
- Rosemary Rosales
- Grant Anderson
- Heather Zapata
- Kyle Reedy
- Manny Jacobo
- Pamela Leon

The speakers offered a series of comments regarding Mr. Aranda's character including, but not limited to, the following:

- Intelligent, diligent, fair, compassionate, and open-minded
- Committed public servant
- Professional
- Patient
- Seasoned litigator

The following citizens submitted comments for Board review in support of Kevin Breger:

- Valerie Boyer-Wells

The speaker offered a series of comments regarding Mr. Breger's character including, but not limited to, the following:

- Exceptional knowledge of the law
- Professionalism
- Judicial temperament
- Extensive legal expertise

The following submitted comments for Board review in support of Amy Haley:

- Randy Kingery
- Benjamin Eid

The speakers offered a series of comments regarding Ms. Haley's character including, but not limited to, the following:

- Intelligent and empathetic
- Judicial temperament
- Natural fit

4. Convene an executive session.

It was moved by Boardmember Durham, seconded by Boardmember Flinchbaugh, that the Board enter into an executive session at 8:03 a.m.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cattani–McCalvin–Berkshire–Durham–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers  
NAYS – None

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. 38-431.03(A)(1));

- i. Review and discuss application and background materials of the candidates for two vacant positions of City Magistrate.

(At 8:41 a.m. the Executive Session adjourned, and the Board reconvened their regular meeting.)

5. 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: Ruben Aranda, Kevin Breger, and Alexia Sedillo.

(Chairperson Cattani declared a recess at 10:45 a.m. The interviews reconvened at 10:54 a.m.)

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to the following candidates: Kerry Rait, Jacob Brown, Geoffrey Balon, and Amy Haley.

6. Convene an executive session.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson McCalvin, seconded by Boardmember Durham, that the Board enter into an executive session at 1:02 p.m.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cattani–McCalvin–Berkshire–Durham–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers  
NAYS – None

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. 38-431.03(A)(1));

- i. Appointment of two City Magistrates.

(At 1:58 p.m. the Executive Session adjourned, and the Board reconvened their regular meeting.)

7. Discuss and take action on a recommendation to the City Council, identifying the recommended candidates for the two vacant positions of City Magistrate.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson McCalvin, seconded by Boardmember Berkshire, that Geoffrey Balon, Kevin Breger, Jacob Brown, and Amy Haley be recommended to the City Council as candidates for the two vacant positions of City Magistrate.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cattani–McCalvin–Berkshire–Durham–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers  
NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

8. Discuss, consider and approve granting Chairperson Cattani the authority to draft a letter to City Council regarding the recommendation of candidates for the two vacant positions of City Magistrate.

It was moved by Boardmember Durham, seconded by Vice Chairperson McCalvin, that the Board approve Chairperson Cattani’s authority to draft a recommendation letter to the City Council for the recommended candidates.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cattani–McCalvin–Berkshire–Durham–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers  
NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

9. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Next meeting:

September 11, 2024, 7:45 a.m.  
Lower-Level Council Chambers  
57 E. First Street  
(if needed)

10. Adjourn.

Without objection, the Judicial Advisory Board adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 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

VW