



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Sarah Staudinger, Assistant City Attorney
Through: Jim Smith, City Attorney
Date: June 20, 2022
Subject: Ordinance revising the appointment process for City Magistrates

The proposed ordinance makes a single substantive change to Mesa City Code Title 2, Chapter 3, Judicial Advisory Board (JAB). The change is to allow the City Council, within six months of an appointment of a City Magistrate from a JAB-recommended list, to appoint another applicant from that same list to a City Magistrate vacancy. This change provides City Council increased flexibility and efficiency in appointing qualified candidates, based on merit, who were recently investigated and recommended by the JAB, without requiring a restart of the recruitment and recommendation process. For example, the City Council may wish to appoint more than one candidate from the JAB-recommended list when there is only one vacancy on the Court at that time. If another vacancy arises, the City Council could appoint another candidate from the list, but only if that appointment occurs within six months of the prior appointment from the same list. Appointing a City Magistrate through this new process is at the discretion of the City Council; the City Council can still choose to proceed with a new recruitment, investigation, and recommendation process through the JAB.

The remaining proposed changes are non-substantive changes, such as renumbering sections, updating section references, and minimal revisions to language for consistency with the new language described above.