

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS) POLICE  
DEPARTMENT LOCAL BOARD MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA WebEx  
50 E. CIVIC CENTER DR., GILBERT, ARIZONA**

**January 24, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Leah Rhineheimer, Debra Stapleton, Sgt. Daniel Brause, Officer Joe Roman, Mark Cichocki - **Via WebEx virtual meeting**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**BOARD SECRETARY:** Donna J. Pedrera

**GUEST/APPLICANTS:** Officer Rico Aranda  
Cynthia Kelly, Esq., Board Attorney

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Rhineheimer called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

**1. Roll Call**

Ms. Donna Pedrera called roll and a quorum was present.

**2. Recess Special Meeting and Convene in Executive Session**

Ms. Stapleton moved to recess special meeting and convene in executive session. Mr. Cichocki seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**3. Adjourn Executive Session and Convene Special Meeting**

Executive session was adjourned, and the special meeting was convened.

**4. Disability Retirement Application**

Consideration of the Application for Accidental Disability Retirement as submitted by Officer Rico Aranda. Officer Aranda was present. Mrs. Pedrera re-affirmed with Officer Aranda that he has waived his right to confidentiality and is allowing the discussion of his medical records in public session. Officer Aranda agreed. Chairperson Rhineheimer asked the Board if they had any questions for Officer Aranda, there were no questions, and no further discussion. Ms. Hubbard- Rhineheimer asked the Board for a motion. Sgt. Brause made a motion to approve the PSPRS Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Officer Aranda. Officer Roman second the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board then went through the questions on the PSPRS form P5-LB-A. The responses were:

- 1. Did the employee file the application after the disabling incident, or within one year of ceasing to be an employee?* Board unanimous - Yes
- 2. Did the employee terminate by a reason of disability?* Board unanimous – Yes
- 3. Did the employment terminate based on a disciplinary issue?* Board unanimous – No
- 4. If the member's period of DROP has ended, if applicable, did (or will) the employee terminate by a reason of disability?* N/A
- 5. Is the employee still working in a position within their job classification that the Local Board considers a reasonable range of duties position?* Board unanimous – No
- 6. Has the employee refused a position within their job classification that the Local Board considered a reasonable range of duties?* Board unanimous – No

7. *Did the injury or condition occur prior to the current PSPRS membership date?*

Board unanimous – No

8. *Was the injury or condition the result of an event incurred during the performance of the employee's duty?*

Board unanimous – Yes

### **5. Return to Work Approval**

Motion to approve the Return to Work of Rico Aranda with a retirement of November 24, 2023 into PSPRS and rehire date of November 27, 2023 into ASRS as a Civilian Patrol Technician as part of a reassignment due to an ADA accommodation.

After the Board reviewed the current and prior job descriptions and the recruitment documents, Chairperson Leah Rhineheimer then went through the following questions in order to determine if Rico Aranda's Return to Work should be approved. The responses were:

1. *Did Mr. Aranda return to work in the "same" position as he retired?* Board unanimous - No

2. *Is the position that Mr. Aranda return to a position that normally contributes to PSPRS?* Board unanimous - No

3. *Did Mr. Aranda return to work with the Town of Gilbert prior to the six month waiting period?* Board unanimous - Yes

a. *Did Mr. Aranda accept a job reassignment as an accommodation in accordance with the ADA due to a disability that is directly related to his being awarded an accidental disability retirement benefit?*

Board unanimous - Yes

b. *Is the position Mr. Aranda returned to an entry level, non-supervisory position?* Board unanimous – Yes

Officer Roman made a motion to approve the Return to Work of Rico Aranda. Mr. Cichocki second the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **6. Approval of minutes**

No Discussion. Sgt. Brause moved to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2023 meeting. Ms. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

### **7. Future Meetings**

Next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024 at 5:00PM. Ms. Pedrera advised the Board that currently there are no items pm the Agenda, so the meeting would most likely be cancelled.

### **8. Adjournment**

Officer Roman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sgt. Brause seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.

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Leah Rhineheimer, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Donna J. Pedrera, Local Board Secretary