



Mesa Police Department



ALEAP On-Site Assessment ***March 8th and 9th, 2022***



Mesa Police Department
Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

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Mesa Police Department
Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

March 8th, 2022

Chief Richard Jessup
San Luis Police Department
rjessup@sanluisaz.gov

Dear Chief Jessup,

On behalf of the Mesa Police Department and City of Mesa, I would like to thank you for your participation as a member of the on-site team. Your experience and dedication to the accreditation process is invaluable. Our entire staff is looking forward to meeting and working with you.

As a highly respected and professional Police Department, achieving accreditation with ALEAP aligns with our mission to build trust with our community partners and our commitment to excellence by demonstrating our pledge to best practices in policing.

The welcome packet contains information about our agency and the City of Mesa. We hope this information will assist in gaining a better perspective of our agency and city and provide details to assist you as an assessor.

Our goal is to ensure your visit in Mesa is pleasant, engaging, and informative. If you have any questions, our staff is available to ensure your needs are met.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ken Cost'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Cost
Chief of Police

480.644.2211 (Tel)



Mesa Police Department
Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

March 8th, 2022

Lieutenant Brian Zach
Kingman Police Department
bkzach@cityofkingman.gov

Dear Lieutenant Zach,

On behalf of the Mesa Police Department and City of Mesa, I would like to thank you for your participation as a member of the on-site team. Your experience and dedication to the accreditation process is invaluable. Our entire staff is looking forward to meeting and working with you.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Cost".

Ken Cost
Chief of Police

480.644.2211 (Tel)

March 2022



Mesa Police Department
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Points of Contact

Name	Title	Extension	Cell Phone
Dan Butler	Assistant Chief Executive Sponsor	██████	
Jeff Cutler	Human Resources Division Commander Accreditation Sponsor	██████	██████████
Chris Toth	Policy & Accreditation Lieutenant	██████	██████████
Marcella Garcia	Accreditation Manager	██████	██████████
Britney Brimhall	Policy & Accreditation Detective	██████	
Karen Hubbard	Sr. Program Assistant	██████	
Jeff Wojnar	Project Manager		██████████

Extension numbers can be dialed internally from any city phone.

To call from an outside number, add 480-644-extension number.



Mesa Police Department
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ALEAP On-Site Assessment Schedule

Day 1 - Tuesday March 8th, 2022

Time	Meeting	Location
0800	Assessors meet with MPD Executive Staff for welcome and introductions	PDHQ -130 N. Robson
0900	Evidence	PDHQ
0945	Records	PDHQ
1000	Professional Standards	PDHQ
1030	Fusion Center	PDHQ
1045	Community Engagement/Recruiting/Hiring	PDHQ
1100	Detention – Holding	PDHQ
1130-1300	Lunch	TBA
1300	Training: Basic – Advanced – Field Training Unit	Public Training Facility
1500	Air Unit Tour/ Ride-Along	Air Unit – Falcon Field
1700	Communications	Fitch Park



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ALEAP On-Site Assessment Schedule

Day 2 - Wednesday March 9th, 2022

Time	Meeting	Location
0800-0900	Public Call-in Session	PDHQ
0900	Special Operations/Traffic (Ride with Patrol officers)	Metro
1030	Exit Interview with Chief Cost and Accreditation Managers	PDHQ



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Chief Ken Cost

Police Chief Ken Cost has been with the Mesa Police Department for over 26 years. Prior to joining the Mesa Police Department, he was a sworn investigator for almost two years with the State of California in East Los Angeles.

Chief Cost has served in several areas of the department and in every rank leading up to assistant chief. These assignments include: Patrol, Bicycle Unit, Special Investigations-Gang Unit, Community Action Team, Street Crimes, Violent Offender-US Marshal's Task Force and Criminal Investigations (Homicide, Financial Crimes, and Recovered Property). As a Commander his assignments included Fiesta Patrol, Human Resources and Training.

Chief Cost holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from California State University at Fullerton, a master's degree from Xavier University, Ohio and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy for Police Executives.

Chief Cost is very active in the community and volunteers numerous hours throughout the year coaching and mentoring youth.



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Assistant Chief Dan Butler

Dan has worked for the Mesa Police Department for twenty-one years and is the Community Services Bureau Assistant Chief. This bureau encompasses Human Resources, Wellness, Basic and Advanced Training, Holding, and Community Engagement. In his last assignment as a bureau chief, Dan led the following divisions: Financial Services, Research and Planning, Technical Services, and Communications.

During his last three years as an assistant chief, Dan has been a driver in innovation, employee development, and developing lasting programs. He and his team developed and implemented a collaborative effort to develop leadership pathways for officers by partnering with the Maricopa County College District to create a foundational leadership program.

Dan is an established mentor with law enforcement professionals from not only the Mesa Police Department but also those from other agencies in Arizona, to enrich people to achieve their leadership and career goals. Recently, Dan spearheaded a women's leadership pathways quarterly luncheon series. This series allows mentorship for women in the law enforcement field and features a quarterly guest speaker who has reached a pinnacle of leadership in her respective profession.

Dan has a Master of Administration degree from Northern Arizona University with an emphasis on leadership and is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police, and Northwestern University's School of Command and Management.



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Assistant Chief Lee Rankin

Lee Rankin is a twenty-five-year veteran with the Mesa Police Department. He is currently assigned as the Investigations Bureau Chief. He is responsible for major investigations, special operations, aviation, and emergency management. He has served in various investigative and supervisory assignments throughout his career.

Prior to this assignment, Lee served as the Executive Chief and Executive Commander, reported directly to the Chief of Police, and enabled the Chief to effectively work with internal and external stakeholders. Within these assignment, Assistant Chief Rankin had an intimate understanding of the Chief's vision and played a pivotal role in the communication and execution of the vision.

In August 2018, the Mesa Police Department (MPD) commissioned the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to assess the department's use of force policies, procedures, training, and tactics. PERF reviewed departmental policies and training regarding use of force as well as all use of force related data. As the Chair of the Use of Force Review and Implementation Committee led the two-year process, which resulted in the adoption of new use of force policies, concurrent investigations, changes in training and discipline directives.

Lee was instrumental in the execution of the department's on-body camera system program. He was responsible for the supervision and implementation of a year-long evaluation of the Axon Flex camera system to determine the impact on civil liability, departmental complaints, and organizational transparency. He established a partnership with the Arizona State University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice to plan, monitor and evaluate the deployment of the camera systems using line officer surveys and field contact reports. He has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master in Public Administration from Arizona State University.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a master's in public administration from Arizona State University.



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Assistant Chief Ed Wessing

Assistant Chief Wessing has served with the Mesa Police Department for 25 years. Prior to joining the Mesa Police Department, he served in the United States Marine Corps for 6 years. He is currently assigned as the Patrol Operations Bureau Assistant Chief. His bureau encompasses the Central, Fiesta, Red Mountain, Superstition Patrol Divisions and the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

Assistant Chief Wessing has worked in various assignments in every rank in the Mesa Police Department. These assignments include: Patrol, Bicycle Unit, School Resource Officer, Community Action Team, Traffic, Media Relations, Training, Criminal Investigations (Homicide, Financial Crimes, and Recovered Property) and Human Resources (Hiring and Training).

Assistant Chief Wessing has a bachelor's degree in education from Northern Arizona University and an MBA from Benedictine University. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). Assistant Chief Wessing is active in the community, volunteering many hours throughout the year and is currently on the Executive Board of Directors for Arizona Disabled Sports & Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled.



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Assistant Chief Gina Nesbit

Assistant Chief Nesbit has served with the Mesa Police Department for 25 years. She is currently assigned as the Professional Services Bureau Assistant Chief. The bureau encompasses the following divisions: Financial Services, Professional Standards, Technical Services, Communications and Planning and Research.

Assistant Chief Nesbit has worked in various assignments in every rank in the Mesa Police Department. These assignments include Patrol, Special Victim's Unit Detective, Training (Basic Training Academy Sergeant and Training Lieutenant), Central Division Criminal Investigations Sergeant, Mobile Field Force Commander, Traffic Lieutenant, Metro Resources Commander and Fiesta Division Commander. She is retired from the United States Army Reserves and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and Major City Chiefs Association (MCCA). Assistant Chief Nesbit has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Administration – Leadership Emphasis.



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Commander Jeff Cutler

Jeff Cutler has been with the Mesa Police Department since 1997. He is currently assigned as the Human Resources Commander which includes the Hiring Section, Policy and Planning Section, and Jail Operations. The Hiring Section is vital to the success of the organization by ensuring we bring in only the best recruits who will uphold our high standards the community expects of our officers. The Policy and Planning section is critical to the ongoing success of our agency along with properly planning for our future. We must guarantee our polices are up to date with 21st Century principles of policing. This unit is also responsible for working with the accreditation of our department. Jail Operations is key to operations success while safeguarding the rights of those who are brought into our facility.

During Commander Cutler's career, he has served in various assignments including Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Bike Officer, and Gang Detective. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2006. During this time, he led several patrol teams and spent 4 years leading the Gang Investigations squad. In 2012, he took over management for the East Valley Gang & Criminal Information Fusion Center a multi-jurisdictional intelligence center promoting inter-agency communications on crime trends. Commander Cutler was promoted to Lieutenant in 2014 where he led the departments Policy and Planning Unit and served as the Operations Lieutenant for the Fiesta Division. Upon promotion to Commander, he served as the Executive Commander in the Office of the Chief of Police and the Superstition Patrol Division Commander.

Commander Cutler holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Arizona State University and a master's in organizational management from the University of Phoenix. Prior to joining the Police Department, he held leadership positions at Chase Manhattan Bank and Arizona State University.



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Lieutenant Chris Toth

Chris Toth has been with the Mesa Police Department since 1995. He currently serves in the Policy and Accreditation Section as the Lieutenant which oversees policy development, critical policy review, accreditation, as well as inspections and audits. The mission of the Section is to ensure Department Policies, Supplemental Manuals, and practices are in accordance with the industry's best standards.

During Lieutenant Toth's career, he has served in various assignments including Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Recruit Training Officer and Background Detective. He promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2006. During this time, he held numerous patrol assignments, Criminal Investigations and School Resource Unit Supervisor. He was awarded the Supervisor of the year in 2015 by the Arizona School Resource Officers Association. In 2016, Chris was promoted to Lieutenant. He has served as a Patrol Lieutenant, as the Operations Lieutenant for the Red Mountain Division and the Basic Academy Training Lieutenant of the Mesa Police Academy. Over his career he has also served as a member of the Honor Guard, Peer Team and on the Board of the Mesa Police Benevolent Fund.

Lieutenant Toth holds a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Arizona State University and a Master's in Education from Northern Arizona University. He also has successfully completed the Leadership Trilogy sponsored by FBI-LEEDS and completed the Hispanic Leadership Institute – East Valley in 2020.



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Police Policy and Procedure Analyst, Accreditation Manager

Marcella Garcia has served with the Mesa Police Department for 25 years. She is currently assigned as the Accreditation Manager in the Policy & Accreditation Section.

Marcella completed the Mesa Police Academy in 1997 and served in various assignments within the Mesa Police Department including Hiring and Recruiting, Missing Persons Investigations (Arizona Child Abduction Response Team (AZCART) and Phoenix Street Light Task Force), SWAT, and most recently was responsible for administering and managing IA Pro/Blue Team in the Professional Standards section.

Marcella was a founding member and board member for the Arizona Background Investigator's Association, treasurer for the Arizona Missing Persons Investigator's Association, and Chairperson for the MPD Cultural Awareness Team. She has been actively involved in the community having served as a mentor for the Smart Girls Program with the Boy's and Girl's Club, an instructor for city employees and community members for the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) program and a mentor for the ASPIRE Police & Fire Academy for female youth.

Marcella is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Sociology. She is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).



Mesa Police Department
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History of the Mesa Police Department

In 1883 the Mesa City Government was established and the first official elections were held. Wellington Richens was elected as the first law officer to the position of Marshall for the Town of Mesa.



In 1931 Howard Peterson was the first Chief of Police in Mesa.

In 1935 Mesa began purchasing and issuing its first formal uniforms and Sam Brown duty belts for officers.

Two-way radios were installed in every patrol vehicle in 1941.

There was no formal police academy for new officers until June of 1969. Officers then began to attend formalized instruction mandated by ALEOAC. Mesa officers received 440 hours of instruction through the Phoenix Regional Police Academy.

In 1973 Mesa hired its first two female officers, and by 1975 there were 25 female officers.

In 1979 Mesa Police initiated a field training program once officers graduated from the police academy. A model used by San Jose P.D. was replicated, and officers went through a 12-week F.T.O. program which consisted of four phases of training on the street.



In 1980 the department installed a multi-million-dollar computer system developed by a San Francisco firm, and in 1989 a new communications building was built

In 1981 the department began to utilize civilian investigators in positions such as accident investigators, fraud specialists, and recovered property detail, to help free up sworn officers to investigate and fight crime.

In 1986 two fixed wing airplanes were purchased to aid with surveillance and prisoner transport, and in 1994 the first helicopter was purchased.

In 1994 Mesa Police opened its current state of the art Police Academy which initially was 19 weeks followed by a 14-week field training program.





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The History of Mesa Preserved on Mesa Heritage Wall



The town of Mesa was founded by Mormons who arrived in the Salt River Valley on February 14, 1878. The Mesa Company, as the colonists called themselves, set up a townsite and moved into their simple brush and adobe homes in the fall of 1878. Within four years, about 300 people were living in Mesa.

The original Mesa townsite was one mile square. The streets were very wide, and lots were large (1.25 acres) to encourage residents to plant gardens. Each family was given land based on how much labor it had contributed to building the Mesa Canal.

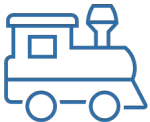


The first permanent school in Mesa was an adobe building erected in 1882 at Center and 2nd Avenue. The Mesa colonists, who organized a school district soon after their arrival in 1878, first educated their children in a series of temporary buildings, one of which was a brush shed.



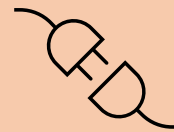
On July 15, 1883, the town of Mesa City was incorporated after residents asked the county for permission to establish a local government. At the first election, in which 29 Mesa residents voted, 10 city officials were elected. On the eve of the Second World War, when Mesa's population was just over 7,000, the city had an annual budget of \$294,000 and owned one building at 1st Street and Macdonald.

The earliest church buildings in Mesa were erected before statehood. By 1893, Methodists had a sanctuary on 1st Avenue near Center, and Baptists had a building at 1st Avenue and Macdonald. The first Mormon tabernacle was constructed in 1896, at 1st Avenue and Morris. Local Catholics founded the Sacred Heart mission in 1908, at 2nd Street near Crismon (later Country Club). Mesa's Episcopalians built St. Mark's mission on Pepper Place in 1911.



Rail service came to Mesa in December 1895, when the Maricopa & Phoenix & Salt River Valley Railroad began running trains between Mesa and Tempe. In 1926, the Southern Pacific routed its main line through Mesa. Regular passenger service to Mesa ended in 1958. The Robson Street depot was closed in 1982 and destroyed by fire in 1989.

Mesa acquired electricity in 1898, when a hydroelectric power plant was built on the new Crosscut Canal. It was sold to businesses and residents, who suffered periodic blackouts when the canal ran low. Two years later, service was improved by a steam generating plant. In 1917, the private utility company was purchased by the city, which has supplied power to residents ever since.

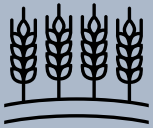


Telephone service came to Mesa in 1902, when Consolidated Telephone set up a switchboard in the rear of a local store. By 1924, when the company was called Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph, there were only 780 telephones in Mesa. Local switchboards were phased out after 1949, when direct-dial service became available. Mountain States was later acquired by Mountain Bell.



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Mesa Union High School opened its first building at 2nd Avenue and Center in 1909, after holding classes in temporary facilities for ten years. The school's motto, "Carry On," was inspired by the last words spoken by a student before his accidental death in 1932.



One of Mesa's earliest cotton gins was built by the Egyptian Cotton Company in 1912. Soon thousands of acres of land were planted with cotton. Mesa celebrated this new industry in 1919 with the King Kotton Carnival and a meeting of the Arizona Cotton Congress.

Agriculture in Mesa was more than just citrus and cotton. Mesa farmers also raised grain, melons, alfalfa, grapes, nuts and vegetables. Livestock, dairy and poultry farming were important as well. In 1914, the University of Arizona established a research station on Main Street, just west of Alma School Road, the station tested new crops and helped local farmers improve their irrigation and farming methods.



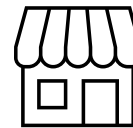
By the early 1890s, several citrus orchards had been planted on the outskirts of Mesa. From those simple beginnings grew one of the city's most important industries. Thousands of acres were planted with oranges, lemons and grapefruit, and packing sheds and warehouses were built.

In 1912, the first year of Arizona statehood, there were 109 automobiles and trucks in Mesa, one for every 15 residents. Within a few years, enough cars were on the road to raise concerns about traffic enforcement. A police officer was stationed on the Mesa-Tempe highway in 1916, parking meters were installed on Main Street in 1946 and Mesa's first traffic light was erected in 1950.



In 1920, Mesa built its first modern fire station. Located on Macdonald Street, the station was part of a civic center that also included a city hall constructed in 1912. The fire station remained in use until 1963.

Mesa's first community hospital was established in 1920, when a group of citizens purchased a home at Main Street and Hibbert and converted it into a hospital. In 1923, it was incorporated as Southside District Hospital. In 1973, after merging with Phoenix's Good Samaritan Hospital, Southside was closed and replaced by Desert Samaritan Hospital near Southern and Dobson.



During its first fifty years, Mesa's incorporated area remained within the original one-mile-square townsite. This changed in 1930, when the city annexed six subdivisions and doubled in size. Since then Mesa has grown steadily, especially after the Second World War. In 1950, the city was just over six square miles in area and had a population of nearly 17,000. By 2000, it was 125 square miles in area and had 396,375 residents.



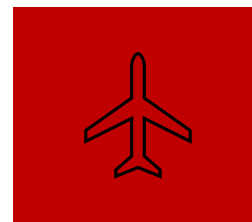
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Mesa's library found its first permanent home in 1937, when it moved into the new Mesa city hall at 1st Street and Macdonald. Opened in 1906 as a free reading room, the library at first was run by volunteers and housed in a series of downtown commercial buildings.



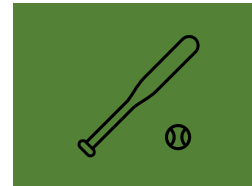
In May 1938, Mesa residents dedicated their first city park, Rendezvous Park. It boasted a swimming pool, bathhouse, skating rink, tennis courts and a floodlit baseball field. Located at 2nd Street and Center, the park had been created with volunteer labor.

Two military airports were built near Mesa in 1941. Falcon Field was built to train British pilots, and Williams Field was set up for American pilots. After the war, Falcon Field was closed and turned over to the city of Mesa, which converted it into a municipal airport. Williams Field (later Air Force Base) continued to operate as a training base until 1993. It was acquired by the city in 1994 and reopened as Williams Gateway Airport.



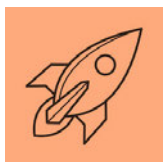
Mesa's first radio station, KARV, went on the air in January 1947. It was followed by KTYL, another local station that operated under several names until the 1980s, when it was sold and re-named KZZP. Mesa's first and only television station was KTYL-TV, which began broadcasting in 1953 from studios on the Mesa-Tempe highway.

Mesa became the spring training home of the Chicago Cubs in 1952. The Cubs played at Rendezvous Park through 1965, later moving to Scottsdale. The Oakland Athletics trained in Mesa from 1969 through 1978, first at Rendezvous and then at Hohokam Stadium, which was built in 1977. In 1979, the Cubs returned to Mesa. In 1997, the original Hohokam Stadium was torn down and replaced by a new stadium.



Mesa's first junior high school opened in 1952, bringing the number of schools in the Mesa district to seven. In the years that followed, the district continued to build schools to keep up with the city's rapid growth. Forty-two new grade schools opened between 1950 and 1990, along with nine junior high schools and five high schools. By 1990, Mesa Unified School District No. 4 was the largest school system in the state and the largest employer in the city.

The city's first indoor shopping center was Tri-City Mall, which opened in 1968 and closed in 1998. The next was Fiesta Mall, which opened in 1979. A third, Superstition Springs Center, became Mesa's largest shopping mall when it opened in 1990.

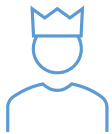


In 1957, a rocket engine manufacturer, Talco, moved its research division to Falcon Field. It was joined in 1960 by Talley Defense Systems, which became Talley Industries, Mesa's first homegrown Fortune 500 company. In 1966, Motorola opened a plant at Broadway and Dobson. In 1982, Hughes Helicopter opened its Apache helicopter factory, which later became part of McDonnell Douglas and then Boeing.



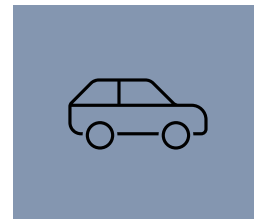
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Mesa Community College opened in 1963 as a branch of Phoenix College. In that first year, 615 students and 20 instructors met at Main Street and Extension, in what later became the Landmark Restaurant. By the year 2000, the college had an enrollment of 24,000 and had established the Red Mountain branch campus in east Mesa.



After the Second World War, Mesa's city government changed to keep pace with the city's growth. A city manager was hired in 1952, and a manager-council form of government was formally adopted in 1955. Mesa voters approved the city's first charter in 1967. This gave the city home rule, freeing it from supervision by the Arizona legislature. It also provided for direct election of the mayor. In 1968, Mesa residents elected their mayor for the first time.

The first freeway to reach Mesa's city limits opened in July 1977, when the Superstition was completed to Dobson Road. The Superstition had been planned since 1962, after Mesa was bypassed by Interstate 10. It was completed nearly thirty years later, in 1991, when it joined US Highway 60 near Apache Junction. Mesa's second freeway, the Price (Loop 101) opened in 1991. The Red Mountain Freeway (Loop 202) reached Mesa in 1997.



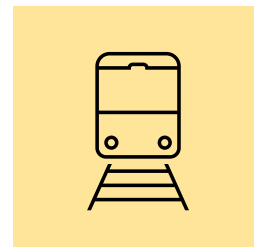
In May 1979, Mesa was named an All-America City by the National Municipal League. Mesa was honored for its efforts to address community problems through cooperation among citizens, schools, civic groups and local governments, including the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Among the projects praised by the League were the founding of the Tri-Cities Community Service Center and a cleanup campaign along the Salt River.

Between 1980 and 1990, Mesa was one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States with populations over 100,000. During that decade, Mesa's population rose from 152,000 to 288,000—an increase of 89 percent. This was a slower growth rate than in the past. During the 1970s, Mesa's population jumped from 63,000 to 152,000—a growth rate of 141 percent. High growth rates have been a Mesa tradition. Every decade between 1930 and 1990, the city's population nearly doubled.



Mesa boasts two airports: Phoenix-Mesa Gateway and Falcon Field. Each offers diverse aerospace, defense, aviation, and other high-tech industries. In 2008, Mesa received Expansion Solutions Magazine's 2008 Award of Excellence in Aerospace recognizing cities that make exceptional progress in economic development through successful recruitment and retention of aerospace businesses. In 2011, over 100 companies adjacent to Mesa's two airports employ more than 10,000 high valued jobs. In January 2010, Gateway celebrated the arrival of its one millionth passenger.

METRO light rail initiated passenger rail service in 2008 linking Mesa with Tempe and Phoenix. This modern rail system introduced an alternative for intercity travel and a unique partnership highlighting regional cooperation. On December 27, 2008 the beginning of the line station at Sycamore/Main hosted the region's largest celebration with more than 35,000 residents enjoying festivities and free light rail rides. The Sycamore Station quickly became the busiest station and helped generate support for extending the system into Downtown Mesa.



<https://www.arizonamuseumofnaturalhistory.org/explore-the-museum/exhibitions/mesa-heritage-wall>



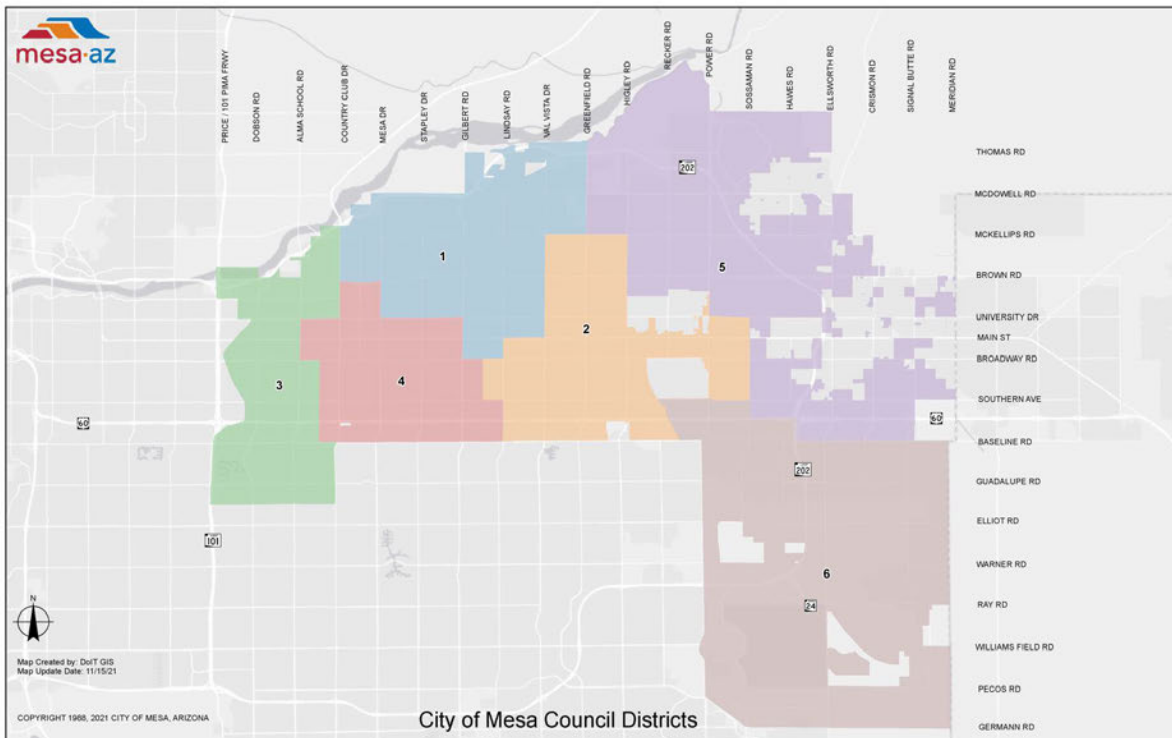
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Mayor & Council

Mesa operates under a charter form of government with citizens electing a mayor and six councilmembers to set policy for the City.

Mesa's councilmembers serve terms of four-years, with three members being elected every two years. The mayor is elected at-large every four years. The mayor and council are elected on a non-partisan basis. The vice mayor is selected by the City Council.

The Mesa City Council believes that its people, not leaders, are what makes a City great and actively works to encourage [citizen participation](#) in the decision-making process. Whether it is through neighborhood meetings, [advisory boards and committees](#), telephone calls and letters, or email, the Mesa City Council sets policies based on the input and needs of its citizens.





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Mayor John Giles

John Giles was elected Mayor of Mesa, Arizona in 2014 and began his second full term in January 2021.

Mayor Giles oversees a growing economy that's added thousands of new jobs, over \$3.65 billion in new capital investment and employers like Google, who is joining Apple, in the Elliot Road Technology Corridor and Amazon in the Falcon Business District. He brings renewed focus and attention to Mesa's downtown resulting in a new Arizona State University facility with cutting edge programs and budding creative economy with new businesses, restaurants, and entertainment options.

Education and building Mesa's workforce are top priorities for Mayor Giles. He is proud to spearhead the Mesa College Promise that provides qualified graduates with a free community college education. The Promise, along with Mesa Counts on College and the Mayor's TeenForce summer internship program are working toward building Mesa's future workforce. This year, he is chair of the Mayor's Education Roundtable, where Mayors from across the state share data and build on plans to increase student success.

Mayor Giles is a member of the United States Conference of Mayors Board of Trustees and serves as Chair of their Immigration Task Force. Giles is also a proud member of the Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness. Mesa's program has housed more than 120 homeless vets.

Recognizing these efforts and more, Money.com, a subsidiary of Time Magazine, named Mesa the best big city in the Southwest.

Born and raised in Mesa, Mayor Giles earned degrees from Brigham Young University in Political Science and Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law where he is now an Adjunct Professor. He has managed his own law firm in downtown Mesa for more than 25 years. Mayor Giles is a marathoner and triathlete who has completed two full Ironman competitions, 20 marathons and four Boston Marathons. Mayor Giles and his wife Dawn have been married for more than 35 years. They have five children and eight grandchildren.



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Councilmember Mark Freeman-District 1

Elected to the Mesa City Council in August 2016, Councilmember Mark Freeman began his first term representing District 1 in January of 2017. He served as Vice Mayor from January 28, 2019 until January 11, 2021. He was re-elected to a second term in August of 2020 that will run until January of 2025.

Freeman's Mesa roots run deep, as his ancestor, Charles Crismon, was one of the founding fathers of Mesa. His family has farmed in the Valley since 1878 and Freeman continues that tradition today, growing alfalfa and sweet corn and running a summer farmer's market at Brown and Center Street. In addition to farming, he spent 31 years with the Mesa Fire and Medical Department as a Captain Paramedic before retiring in 2011.

Mark has always been active in the community, serving on the Mesa Board of Adjustment as well as serving as the Lehi area Board President for 12 years. In addition, he has been involved with the Maricopa County and Arizona Farm Bureau organizations for many years. He is currently serving his fourth term on the National League of Cities Public Safety & Crime Prevention committee.

Mark has lived in Mesa for more than 60 years. He and his wife LeeAnn have a strong family value, with great love for their three children and eight grandchildren. His oldest son is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force as a Captain. Their other children reside in Mesa.

Council Committees

Audit, Finance and Enterprise- Chair
Public Safety
City Benefits Advisory Committee

Arizona Boards and Committees

Mesa Board of Adjustment
Lehi Area Board of Directors- President
Maricopa County Farm Bureau
Arizona Farm Bureau
Mesa Chamber of Commerce - Council Representative
League of Arizona Cities & Towns Public Safety, Military Affairs and Courts Committee

National Boards and Committees

National League of Cities Public Safety & Crime Prevention Federal Advocacy Committee- Fifth Term



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Councilmember Julie Spilsbury-District 2

Elected to the Mesa City Council in August of 2020, Councilmember Julie Spilsbury began her first term representing District 2 in January of 2021. Her term on the Council runs until January of 2025.

A product of Mesa Public Schools (MPS) for her entire education, Spilsbury has been active for more than 18 years in local schools, earning an award from MPS for her volunteer work. Both of her parents were teachers, instilling in her a drive to support those who lead our children.

Julie and her husband Jeremy ran a small tree care company for more than 20 years. They have lived in District 2 for almost their entire 24 years of marriage and have six children, five girls and one boy. She attended Brigham Young University.

Council Committees

Economic Development- Chair
Sustainability & Transportation

Arizona Boards and Committees

Mesa Arts Center Foundation Board
i.d.e.a. Museum Board of Directors
United Food Bank Board of Directors

National Boards and Committees

National League of Cities Youth, Education and Families (YEF) Council
National League of Cities Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) Federal Advocacy Committee



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Councilmember Francisco Heredia-District 3

Francisco Heredia was appointed to the Mesa City Council to fill the vacant District 3 seat on September 28, 2017 and elected in November of 2018 to complete the term. He won re-election in August of 2020 to a full four-year term that will run until January 2025.

Heredia has experience working in government, working for both the Maricopa County Recorder's Office and the United States Census Bureau. He spent time as the National Field Director of Mi Familia Vota and One Arizona, the KidsCare Outreach Coordinator for the Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System and as a prevention specialist for Chicanos Por la Causa.

He is a member of the National League of Cities Human Development Federal Advocacy Committee and is also a member of the Hispanic Elected Officials Organization and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. He is currently the Chair of both the Valley Metro Rail Board of Directors and the Valley Metro Regional Public Transit Authority (RPTA) Board.

Before moving to Mesa he was a resident of Chandler, where he served as a commissioner for the Chandler Housing and Human Services Commission. He also served on the State of Arizona Board of Chiropractic Examiners, which he was appointed to by the Governor of Arizona.

Heredia earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Masters of Public Administration from Arizona State University. He owns his consulting firm, assisting clients with grant writing, planning and strategy. He and his wife Carmen have three children.

Council Committees

Community & Cultural Development - Chair
Economic Development
Sustainability & Transportation

National Boards and Committees

National League of Cities Human Development Federal Advocacy Committee
Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO)
National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO)

Arizona Boards and Committees

2020 Census Task Force - Chair
Mesa Achieves Higher Education Task Force - Co-Chair
Valley Metro Rail Board of Directors- Chair
Valley Metro RPTA Board of Directors- Chair
Paz de Cristo
Mesa Sister Cities
Mesa United Way
Self Insurance Board of Trustees

Past Boards and Committees

Arizona League of Cities & Towns Neighborhoods, Sustainability and Quality of Life Policy Committee



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Vice Mayor Jenn Duff-District 4

Elected to the Mesa City Council in November of 2018, Councilmember Jenn Duff began her first term representing District 4 in January of 2019. She was named Vice Mayor of Mesa on January 11, 2021. Her term on the Council runs until January of 2023.

A Mesa native with British family roots that go back to Falcon Field during World War II, Duff is very active in the Mesa community. She spent six years on the Board of Directors of the i.d.e.a. Museum. She has served on the City of Mesa Planning and Zoning Board and co-founded the Retail, Arts, Innovation and Livability (R.A.I.L) Community Development Corporation. In 2015 she was awarded the Mesa Community College Hall of Fame Alumni Achievement Award. In 2021 Duff received the LISC Phoenix Annual Exemplary Advocate Award for her work supporting the Downtown Mesa community.

Duff is the President and Owner of Jef International, Inc., an import/export trading business specializing in sport fishing tackle. She started the business in 1990, following six years as a Professional Bass Angler. She was recognized as the top woman pro bass angler in the Southwest and is the only American woman to ever compete professionally in Japan. Duff lived in Japan in 1989 competing and promoting the sport. Duff is also the former owner of Lobina Lures, which manufactured and distributed Rico brand topwater bass fishing lures since 1991. Prior to her career in sport fishing, Duff worked as a buyer for Goldwater's department store for six years.

Duff is a graduate of Mesa High and earned her Associate in Arts in Fashion Merchandising from Mesa Community College. She completed the Mesa Leadership Training and Development in 2012, Neighborhood Works Leadership Training in 2012, the Mesa Chamber Leadership Development Program in 2018 and the Mesa Fire and Medical Inaugural Citizen's Academy in 2018. She currently is part of the second class of the Smart Growth America Complete Streets Champions Institute.

Council Committees

Audit, Finance & Enterprise
Community & Cultural Development

National Boards and Committees

National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Federal Advocacy Committee - Third Term
National League of Cities Large Cities Council
National League of Cities Women in Municipal Government

Arizona Boards and Committees

Arizona League of Cities & Towns Neighborhoods, Sustainability and Quality of Life Committee
Downtown Mesa Association
MAG Human Services Community Initiatives Committee – Vice Chair
Mesa Community College Development Board
Visit Mesa

Past Boards and Committees

City of Mesa Planning and Zoning Board
i.d.e.a. Museum Board – Chair and Vice Chair
Mesa Achieves Higher Education Task Force – Co-Chair
Mesa Commerce Center Board
R.A.I.L. CDC – Co-Founder
Unity Church of Mesa Board



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Councilmember David Luna-District 5

The first Hispanic to serve on the Mesa City Council, David Luna was appointed to fill the vacant District 5 seat in September of 2013 before winning election for a full term in August of 2014. He was named the Vice Mayor on January 23, 2017 and served in that role until January 28, 2019. Luna was re-elected to a second term representing District 5 in August of 2018. His second term on the Mesa City Council runs until January of 2023.

Councilmember Luna is an active member of numerous boards and committees not only locally, but nationwide, He has been an active member of the National League of Cities since taking office. He currently serves on the NLC Board of Directors, is President of the NLC Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) Board of Directors and is a member of the NLC Membership Committee. He spent four terms on the NLC Information Technology and Communication Committee, including serving as chair and vice chair, and served one term as a member of the NLC Executive Committee. Nationally, he is also a board member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. Locally, Luna is chair of the Mesa Community College at Red Mountain Community Advisory Committee, chair of the Maricopa Association of Government Economic Development Committee and was past chair of the City of Mesa Human Relations Advisory Board.

Luna spent more than 30 years working for Mesa Public Schools, including 27 years as the Director of Education Television for Mesa Public Schools, directing and managing channel 99 and edtv99.org. He retired from MPS in 2017. He also spent time as an adjunct professor for both Arizona State University and Mesa Community College.

Luna has also been recognized for his community involvement with numerous awards, including the Mesa United Way Volunteer of the Year Award in 2006, the City of Mesa National Emergency Preparedness Recognition in 2007, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle Society, the NAACP East Valley Chapter Humanitarian Award in 2008, Arizona Hispanic School Administration's Outstanding Administrator Award in 2008, the Valle del Sol Hall of Fame Award in 2011 and the Mesa United Way Spirit of Mesa Award in 2012. He was also named the City of Mesa's Citizen of the Year in 2012.

Luna began his career in broadcasting in Tucson, working as a camera operator and floor director for KVOA Channel 4 and with the Tucson Unified School District as a video/media specialist before joining Mesa Public Schools. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Radio/Television from the University of Arizona in 1979, a Master of Mass Communication from Arizona State University in 1999 and his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University in 2012. He is also a 2002 graduate of the Mesa Leadership Training and Development program.

Council Committees

Public Safety - Chair
Audit, Finance & Enterprise
Community and Cultural Development

National Boards or Committees

National League of Cities Advisory Council
National League of Cities Executive Committee
National League of Cities Board of Directors Board Membership Committee
National League of Cities Hispanic Elected Local Officials Board of Directors - President
National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials- Ex-Oficio
National League of Cities Information Technology and Communications Committee

Past National Boards or Committees

National League of Cities Board of Directors Legislative Action Committee

Arizona Boards and Committees

Maricopa Association of Governments Economic Development Committee
Arizona Museum of Natural History Board of Directors - Council Representative
Mesa Association of School Administrators
Mesa Senior Services
Mesa United Way
A New Leaf
United Food Bank
Mesa Community Action Network
Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens
Mesa Community College Commission on Excellence
Mesa Counts on College
Mesa Rotary International
Latino Town Hall (Past Co-Chair)
City of Mesa Day Labor Task Force
City of Mesa Human Relation Advisory Board (Charter Member and Past Chair)
Mesa Community College at Red Mountain Community Advisory Committee (Chair



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Councilmember Kevin Thompson-District 6

Elected to the Mesa City Council in August 2014 and re-elected to a second term in August of 2018, Councilmember Kevin Thompson represents Mesa's District 6. His second term on the Council runs until January of 2023.

Since taking office, Councilmember Thompson has been very active representing Mesa on both the national and local level. He is in his sixth term on the National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Committee, including one term as Chair and two terms as Vice Chair. He serves on the American Public Gas Association's Public Gas Policy Council and is the President of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association. In Mesa, he serves on the Mesa Chamber of Commerce Industry and Defense Council and the Centers for Habilitation Board of Directors. He was a member of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee at the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and is the past chair of the Government Affairs Committee for the American Public Works Association.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Thompson spent eight years in the service, including serving in Operation Desert Storm. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and is a 2012 graduate of the Mesa Leadership Training and Development program. Thompson is the principal owner of his own consulting firm. Kevin and his wife Donna have two children.

Council Committees

Sustainability and Transportation - Chair
Public Safety
Economic Development
City Benefits Advisory Committee

National Boards and Committees

National League of Cities Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee
American Public Gas Association's Public Gas Policy Council

Arizona Boards and Committees

Centers for Habilitation
Arizona Municipal Water Users Association- President
Arizona League of Cities & Towns Budget, Finance and Economic Development Policy Committee
Arizona League of Cities & Towns Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Works Committee
MesaCAN Tripartite
Self Insurance Board of Trustees

Past Board and Committee Memberships

National League of Cities Board of Directors
Arizona Chamber of Commerce Military and Veterans Affairs
American Public Works Association Government Affairs Committee - Chair
Arizona Utility Contractors Association - Chair
Tonto Recreation Alliance - Secretary
Mesa Arts Center
Mesa Chamber of Commerce



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City Manager Chris Brady

The City Manager, as the City's chief administrative officer, administers the functions of the City in accordance with the City Charter, Ordinances, and established policies.

The City Manager's Office provides centralized direction and leadership for the effective administration and operations of all municipal services for the City of Mesa as directed by the City Council and serves as the focal point for the management of the City staff departments.

The City Manager's Office prepares and submits to the City Council a balanced budget of municipal services in adherence with the policy goals and objectives by the City Council while employing such managerial techniques as needed to assure efficient and effective utilization of the City's resources.

[Chris Brady](#) became City Manager of Mesa, Arizona in January 2006. With more than 30 years of public sector management experience, he is the Chief Administrative Officer of a municipality with approximately 4,000 employees, an annual operating and capital budget of \$1.8 billion and a population of 500,000 residents. Mesa, Arizona is the nation's 35th largest city.

He was hired by the Mayor and City Council in 2006 to bring new leadership and direction to City government. During his tenure, Brady has reorganized City departments, streamlined business operations, improved customer service and professionalism of City staff, and steered the City through some of the most difficult economic times in recent history.

Working with the Mayor, City Council, business and community leaders and residents, he has been instrumental in improving the City's financial and budgeting models earning the respect of his peers, and more importantly, Mesa residents. These efforts included the passage of several capital bond initiatives for streets and public safety, with debt service being tied to a secondary property tax (the first in more than 65 years).

Prior to joining the City of Mesa, Brady served as Assistant City Manager of the City of San Antonio for ten years. He also served in various executive management and administrative positions for Bellaire, TX, Houston, TX, and Provo, UT.

Education

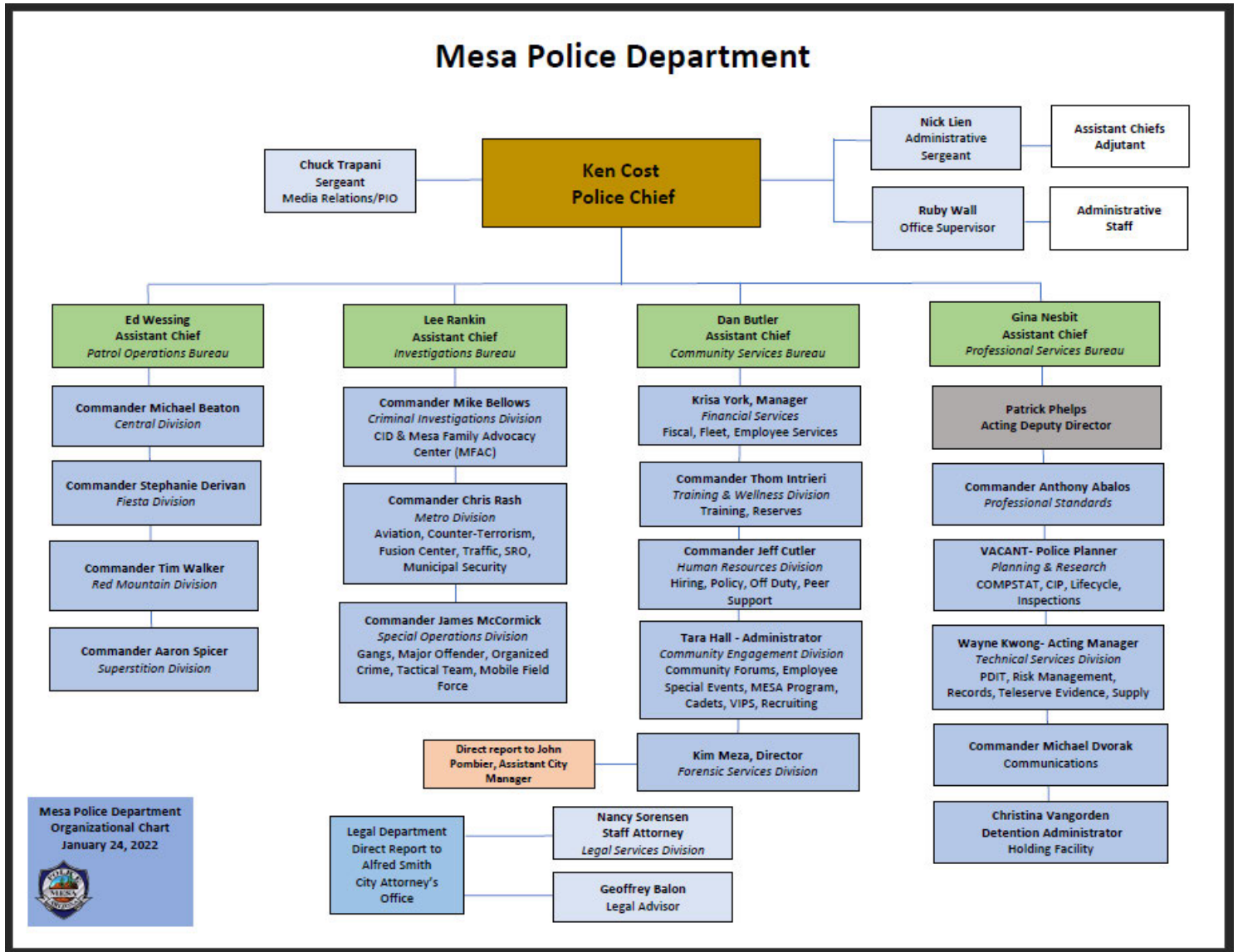
Brady earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University in 1987 and Master of Public Administration degree from Brigham Young University in 1989.

Awards & Recognition

- 2019 - Top twenty best-run cities in America (Wallethub)
- 2018 - Carl Zimmerman Public Service Award from the Center for the Future of Arizona
- 2014 - Jack DeBolske Professional Excellence Award Recipient

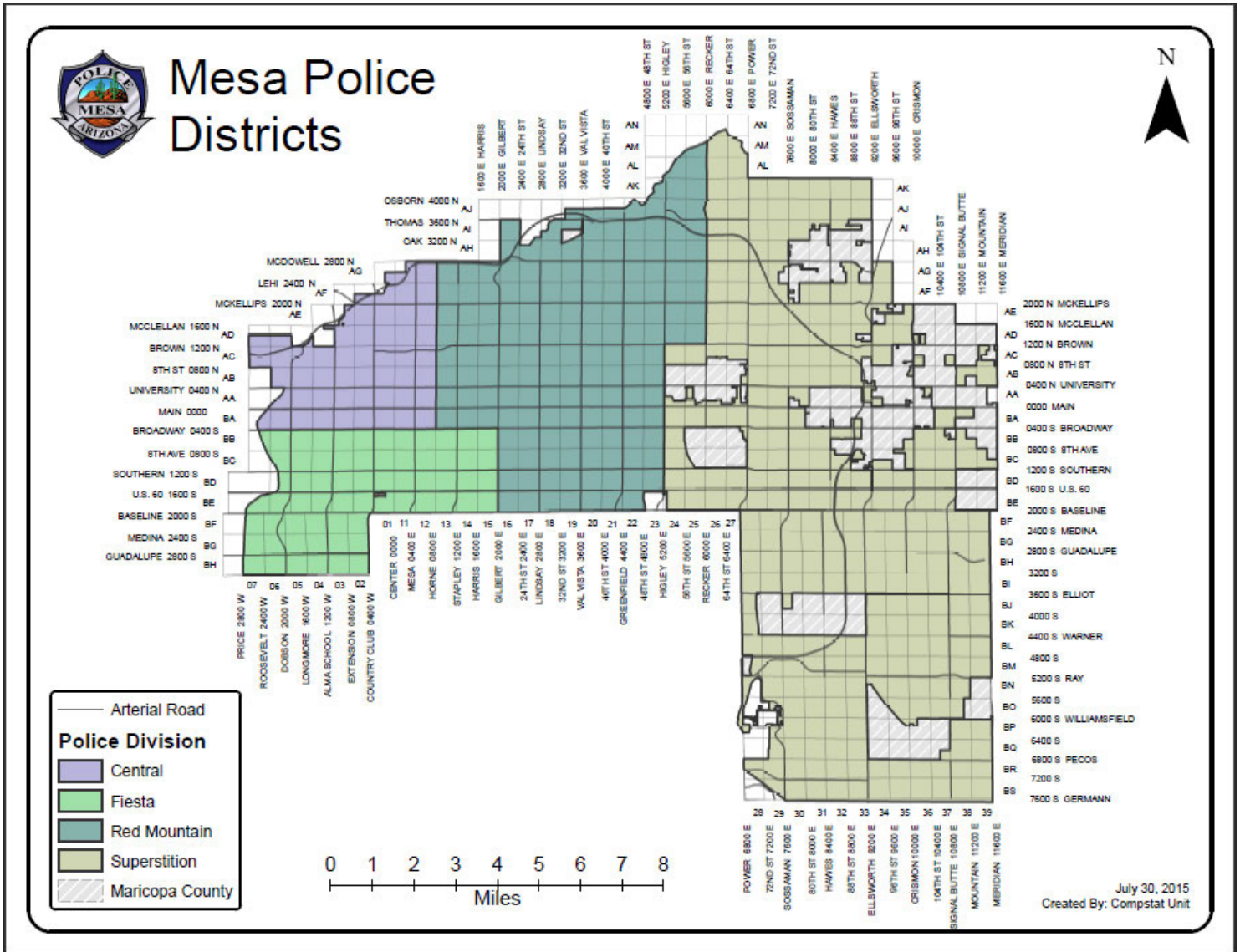


Mesa Police Department Organizational Chart





Mesa Police Department
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Commander Michael Beaton

The Central Patrol Division serves approximately 64,187 residents and is within the City's original square mile. Patrol personnel, along with Patrol Resource Division employees, share the facility.

This district services a geographical area of approximately 12.32 square miles, answering a monthly average of 5,483 calls for service.

The crime prevention officer assigned to Central works closely with local businesses, rental properties, and the community to help solve crime and nuisance problems in neighborhoods and business areas. You can reach your crime prevention officer at 480-644-5642 or centralcrimeprevention@mesaaz.gov.

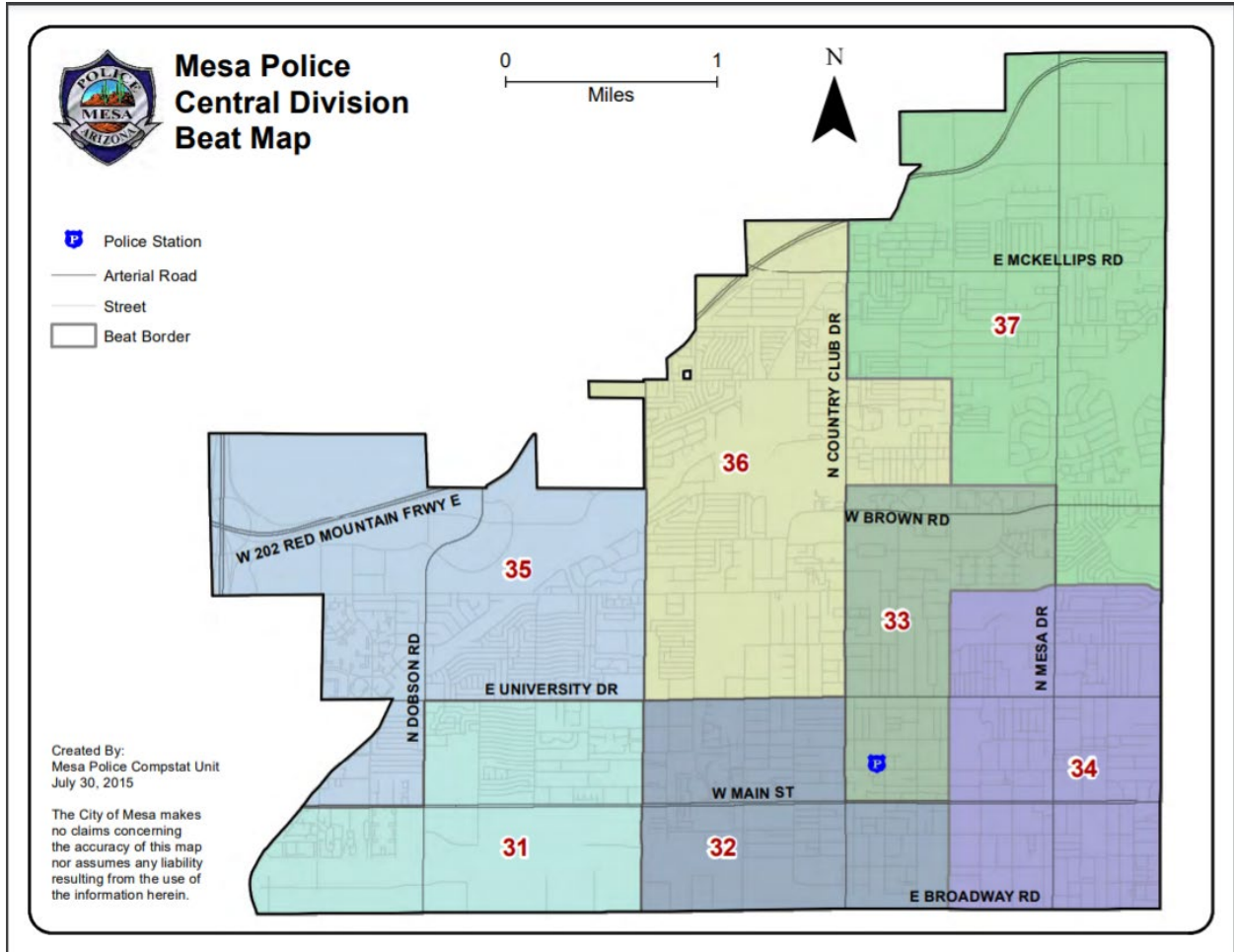
Contact:

120 N Robson
PO Box 1466, Mesa AZ 85211-1466 (mailing)
480-644-2229

[District Map](#)



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Commander Stephanie Derivan

The Fiesta Patrol Division is home to 105,280 residents. The Division services 15.68 square miles and is home to thousands of culturally diverse residents. The officers answer an average of around 4,000 monthly calls for service in an area that includes a community college, hospital, apartment communities, single-family homes, and one of the state's largest high schools.

The Fiesta Patrol Division officers regularly surpass the department-wide goals for pro-active patrol to community policing.

The crime prevention officer assigned to Fiesta works closely with local businesses, rental properties and the community to help solve crime and nuisance problems in neighborhoods and business areas. You can reach your crime prevention officer at 480-644-2539 or fiestacrimeprevention@mesaaz.gov.

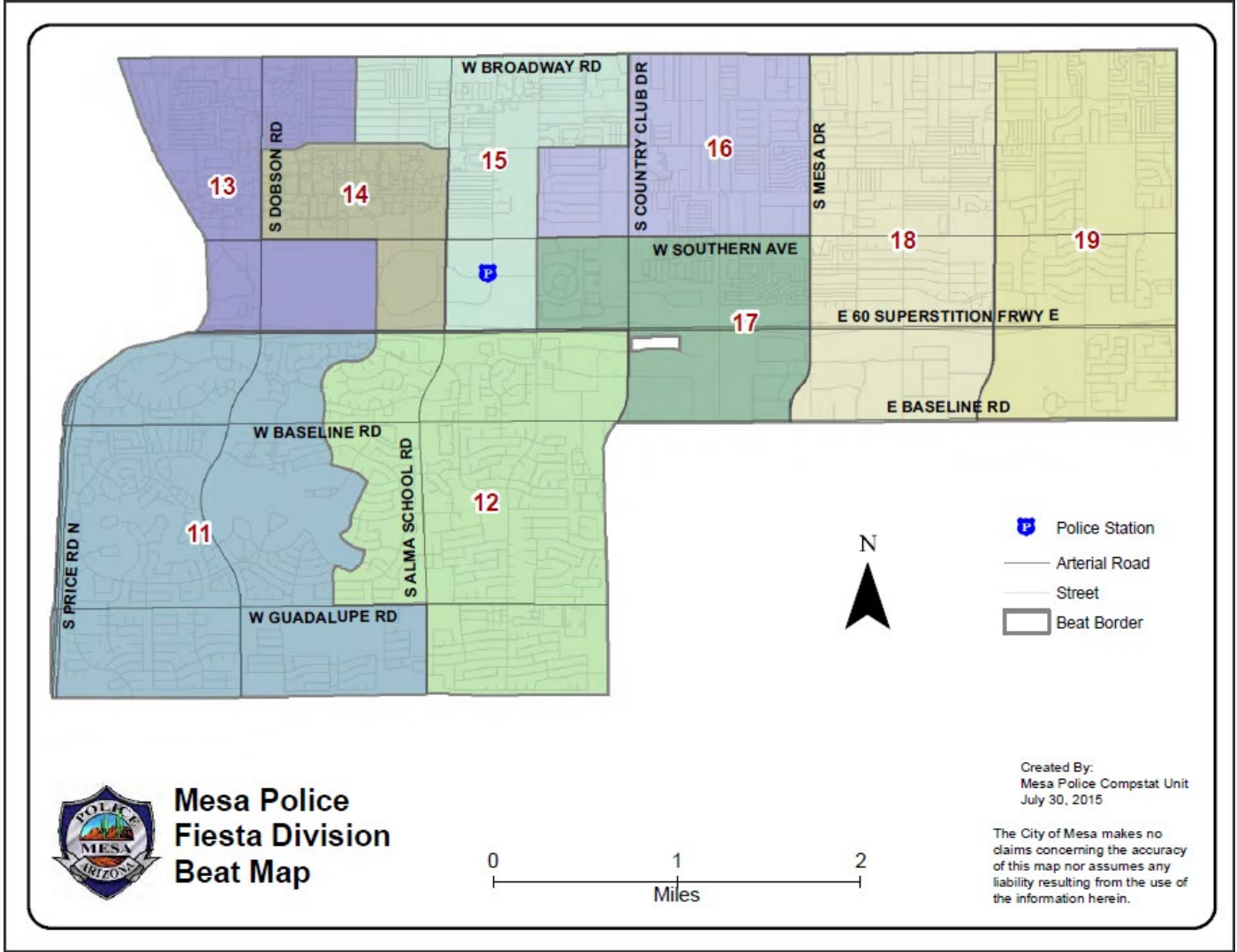
Contact:

1010 W Grove Ave
PO Box 1466, Mesa AZ 85211-1466 (mailing)
480-644-2614

[District Map](#)



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**Mesa Police
 Fiesta Division
 Beat Map**

Created By:
 Mesa Police Comstat Unit
 July 30, 2015

The City of Mesa makes no claims concerning the accuracy of this map nor assumes any liability resulting from the use of the information herein.





Mesa Police Department
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Commander Tim Walker

The Red Mountain Station is in the northeast portion of the City of Mesa. The division services a population of approximately 142,697.

Officers within the division patrol 38.84 square miles, responding to an average of 3,600 monthly calls for service.

The Red Mountain Station has a staff of both sworn and civilian personnel. This is broken down into the assignments listed below but can be reassigned according to the needs of the district.

- 75 patrol officers
- 20 supervisors
- 14 detectives
- 12 professional staff

The Red Mountain District places a priority on ensuring the safety of our community. Red Mountain officers continue to work with members of the community, city services, Fire, law enforcement agencies and the city prosecutor to address community challenges and improve the quality of life for residents.

The crime prevention officer assigned to Red Mountain works closely with local businesses, rental properties, and the community to help solve crime and nuisance problems in neighborhoods and business areas. You can reach your crime prevention officer at 480-644-3921 or redmountaincrimeprevention@mesaaz.gov.

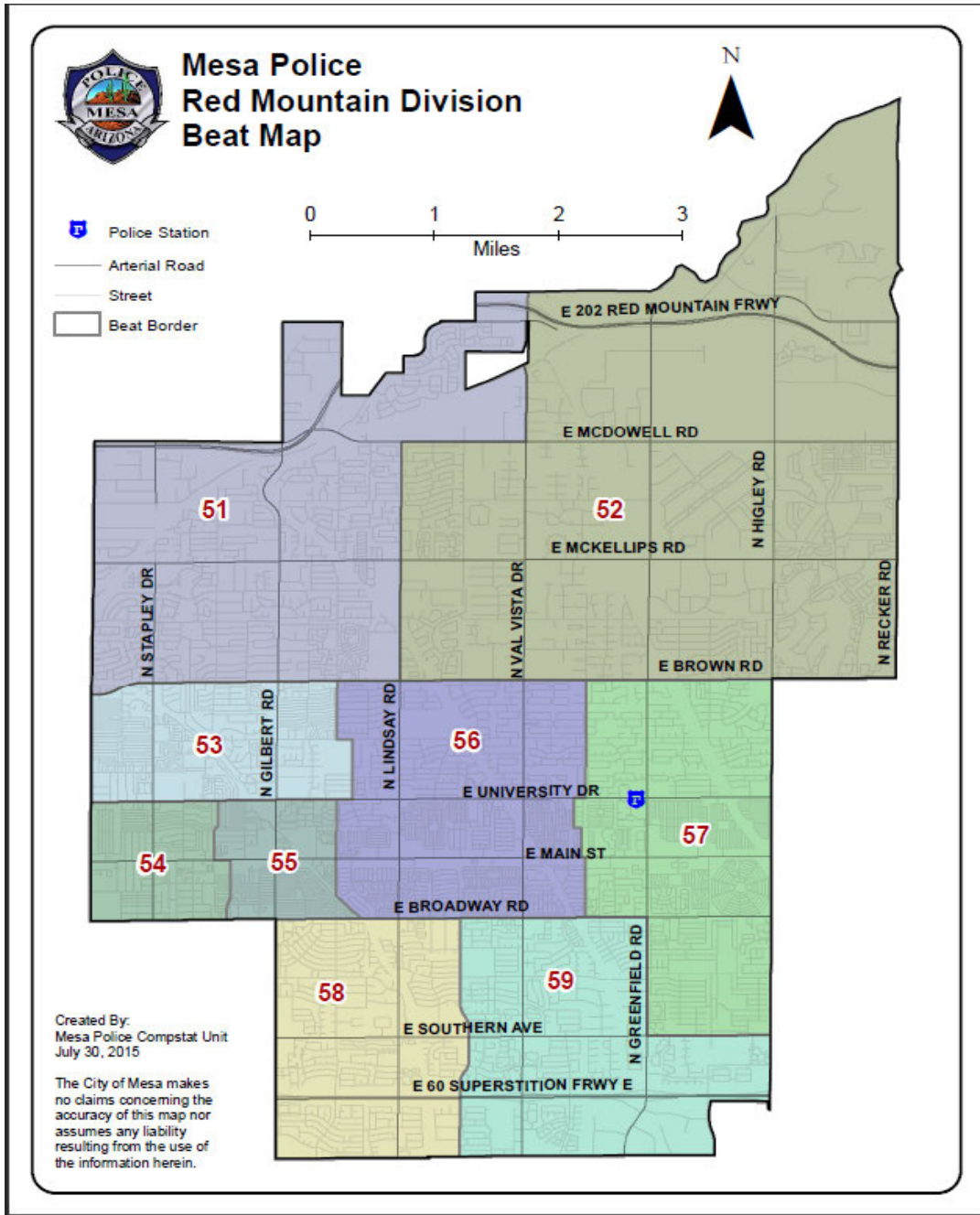
Contact:

4333 E University Dr
PO Box 1466, Mesa AZ 85211-1466 (mailing)
480-644-2598

[District Map](#)



Mesa Police Department
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Commander Aaron Spicer

The Superstition Patrol Division is one of the fastest growing areas within the City of Mesa, with a population of around 184,738. The district is located in the eastern portion of the city and covers approximately 72.23 square miles.

The Superstition Patrol Division has a staff of 145 sworn Patrol Officers, including supervisors, and 14 civilian support staff members. It is also responsible for officers assigned to the Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport. The station is shared with Mesa Fire Department Station 12.

The Superstition Patrol Division has a Criminal Investigation Unit. These detectives investigate most of the criminal cases that occur within the division. There is also a Street Crimes squad which is proactive in identifying and arresting criminals who commit crimes within the division. In addition, the division has a Community Action Officer to proactively work on community and quality of life issues impacting the division.

The crime prevention officer assigned to Superstition works closely with local businesses, rental properties, and the community to help solve crime and nuisance problems in neighborhoods and business areas. You can reach your crime prevention officer at 480-644-5014 or superstitioncrimeprevention@mesaaz.gov.

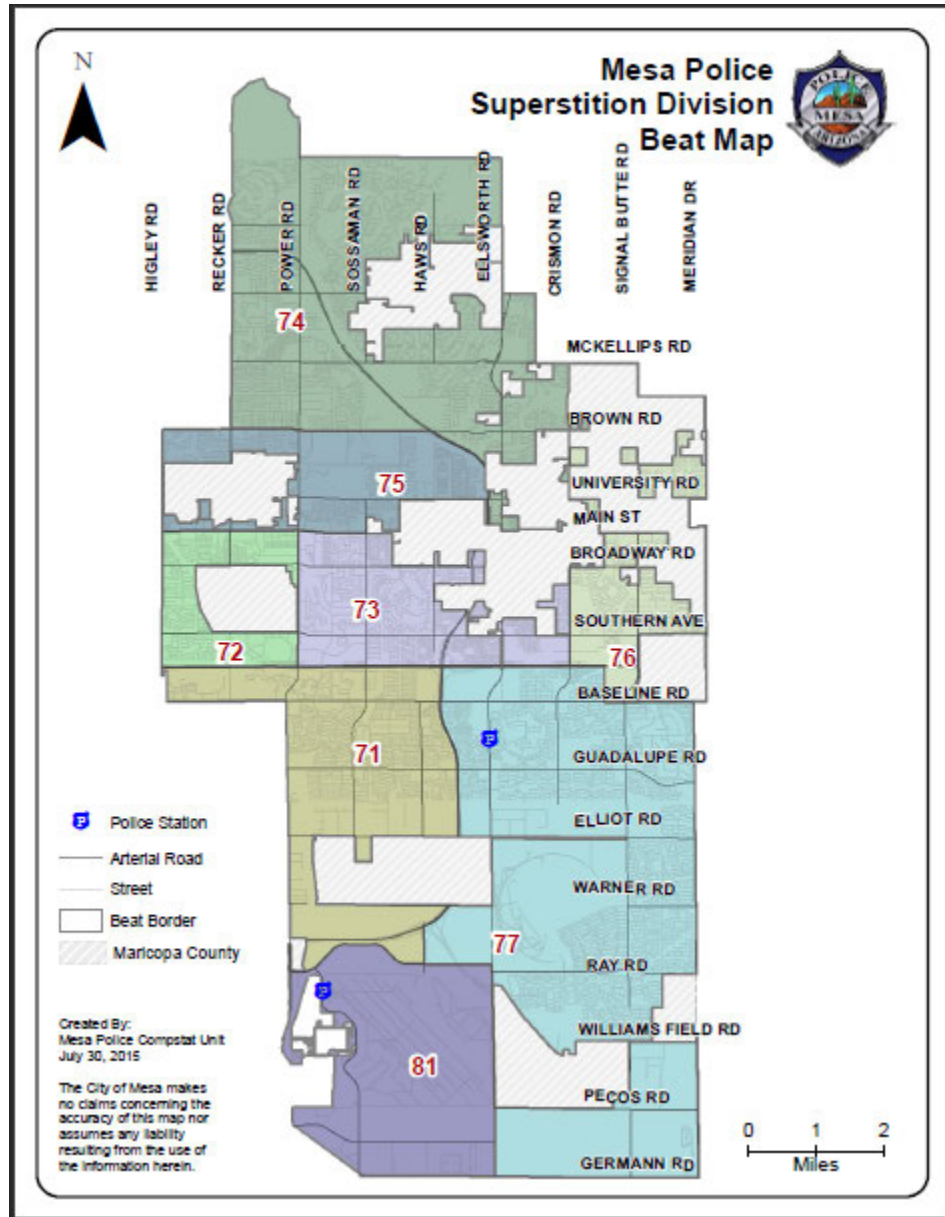
Contact:

2430 S Ellsworth Rd
PO Box 1466, Mesa AZ 85211-1466 (mailing)
480-644-4371

[District Map](#)



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Notable Accolades

Independent Survey: Mesa Residents Feel Safe and Have a Positive Perception of Police Department

Post Date:06/03/2021 9:08 AM

Lead: The results of an independent survey conducted by ASU's Morrison Institute for Public Policy reveals residents feel safe, protected, and maintain positive relationships with their police department. Details at www.mesanow.org

The results of an independent survey conducted by Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy, reveal that Mesa residents feel safe, protected, and maintain positive relationships with their police department.

The survey found that nearly 69 percent of respondents are satisfied with the Mesa Police Department, while less than 10 percent expressed disapproval. The study seeks to help the Mesa Police Department understand current perceptions of policing in the community.

"Building trust with our community is core to our mission. Independent feedback from our residents helps us ensure we are providing the best service to all. Through our crime fighting efforts and community outreach programs, we will continue to keep the City of Mesa a safe place to live, work and play," said Mesa Police Chief Ken Cost. "Our commitment is to build on the already strong relationships we have with the citizens of Mesa."

Overall satisfaction with public safety in Mesa is very good (68.3 percent). The poll also revealed that effective communication is one of the keys to building trust with residents. Of the survey respondents who had interactions with the Mesa Police Department, nearly two-thirds said their experiences with the agency were positive, while an overwhelming 95 percent said officers sufficiently explained their actions.

Residents also gave high marks to the City of Mesa for their quality of life. On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest, 79.5 percent of respondents gave the city a grade of 4 or 5.

"Public safety is our top priority, and I am proud of the brave personnel that ensure Mesa is a safe place to live and raise a family," said Mesa Mayor John Giles. "The results of this survey are a testament to their efforts to listen and learn from our community on a daily basis."

Mesa's investment in public safety has increased significantly over the last five years. The budget of the Mesa Police Department has grown 24 percent -- from \$180.9 million to \$224.5 million. The proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 police department budget includes 20 additional sworn officers and



Mesa Police Department
Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

staff members, improvements to citywide CCTV, and photo safety cameras at schools and other locations, among other strategic allocations.

“This survey is rich with insights for Mesa’s policymakers to consider as they think through how they are going to continue to improve their community,” said Andrea Whitsett, director of ASU’s Morrison Institute for Public Policy, which is part of the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. “A vital step in crafting beneficial, widely accepted public policy is understanding a community’s perceptions and opinions on the important issues of the day.”

More than 800 Mesa residents across all city ZIP codes participated in the non-partisan live-telephone survey commissioned by the Mesa Police Department and conducted between Feb. 22 and March 8, 2021.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.mesaazpolice.gov/community/2021-asu-survey>





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Notable Accolades

News Release

Mesa Police Wraps Up Operation Summer Project

Mesa, AZ – The Mesa Police Department concluded their Operation Summer Project on October 8, 2021. The main goal of the Operation Summer Project was to reduce violent crime within the City of Mesa. To help reach this goal a high visibility enforcement model using an intelligence driven/targeted effort focused on violent crime was utilized.

The operation was in effect from June 30th – October 8th. Officers, detectives, and professional staff from throughout the Police Department were involved and worked together to identify and locate individuals within the community that were committing violent crimes. Those participating in the operation conducted enforcement activities throughout the entire City. During the timeframe of the project hundreds of arrests were made resulting in illegal drug seizures, weapon seizures, and warrant arrests. The Mesa community was also instrumental in the success of this operation by submitting crime tips that assisted and furthered investigations.

Below are statistical results of the 15-week operation and a few examples of subjects arrested:

645 overall arrests, 317 Adult Felony and 321 Adult Misdemeanor / 3 Juvenile Felony and 4 Juvenile Misdemeanor

148 Felony warrants cleared

213 Misdemeanor warrants cleared

32,800 grams of methamphetamine seized, street value of \$180,700

84,603 Fentanyl pills seized, street value of \$846,000

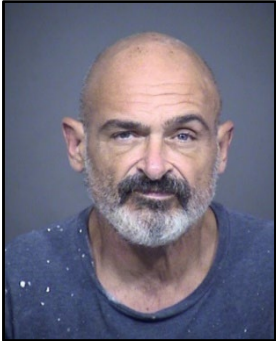
1,784 grams of cocaine seized, street value of \$142,700

136 DUI arrests (alcohol) and 33 DUI arrest (drugs)

73 Firearms seized



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Rickey Cheney

54-year-old Rickey Cheney was arrested for armed robbery, aggravated assault, and 3rd degree burglary. This arrest was a result of Cheney violently assaulting and robbing a customer at a convenience store in the area of 1200 S. Higley. After severely injuring that victim Cheney went to the area of 1400 S. Higley, entered the domicile of another victim, and seriously assaulted that victim. Cheney was held on \$10,000 bond at the time of this arrest.



Frankie Miranda

30-year-old Frankie Miranda was arrested for aggravated assault, warrants and other weapons charges. This arrest was a result of a shooting that occurred during an altercation in a parking lot in the area of 800 N. Dobson Rd. Miranda was held on No Bond at the time of his arrest.



Marc Garcia

38-year-old Marc Garcia was arrested for aggravated assault and weapons charges when officers involved in the operation caught him chasing two males with a large, fixed blade knife in the area of 200 S. Country Club Dr. Garcia was held on \$10,000 bond at the time of his arrest.

The work performed by the officers, detectives and professional staff in this operation is a good example of the commitment of the Mesa Police Department to making the streets of Mesa safer for our community through strategic planning, intelligence led policing, technology, and hard work.



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Current Challenges

Addressing Homelessness in Mesa

Homelessness is a complex and challenging issue for most agencies. Mesa PD has taken a cutting-edge approach to homelessness. In addition to changing policies and practices the Mesa PD has an officer assigned directly to the City Manager's Office to act as a liaison with the courts, human services, public and elected officials on all issues relating to homelessness and the department. To optimize patrol officers time on the streets Mesa PD has officers maintain their core competency of contacting and referring persons as needed and being able to return to normal patrol duties. Either from calls for service or proactive contacts Police officers will always have an intersect with the homeless population. Mesa PD sought to find benefit and synergy that we could develop from this organic connection. When it's appropriate, officers can cite persons in violation situations directly into a therapeutic court known as Community Court. When officers encounter persons in need that are not in a violation situation, they can connect them to Operation Off the Streets.

Community Court and Operation Off the Streets have empowered officers to make decisions in the field for long term resolutions. Community Court is a therapeutic court that for persons experiencing homelessness, addiction and or behavioral issues. Their existing and new criminal cases are used to leverage and incentivize people to engage in services who normally are service resistant. Officers have the ability choose Community Court or traditional adjudication at the time of contact. Officers cite in over 600 persons per year into community court and 20-40% of those cited will graduate the program thus eliminating hundreds of arrests and over 1000 calls for service per year from some of the most frequent system utilizers.

Operation Off the Streets evolved from Operation Main Line which was created by two Mesa Police Department Sergeants. They created an event where officers went out and contacted as many persons in need as possible. At the command post was a buffet of social service providers and teams from nonprofit service providers that could go out to meet the officers where they contacted persons in need. This started as a quarterly event in our Central Patrol district and then evolved into a monthly event with dozens of service providers participating to our current way of doing business. Operation Off the Streets has grown to over 75 motel rooms that act as shelter and transitional housing options. There are three case managers available 24 hours a day to provide the wrap around services to transition people and families off the streets. Mesa PD staffs the shelter with a sworn officer from 0600-0300 to provide a safe environment and mitigate negativity that could possibly impact the surrounding community. Since May of 2020 when we transitioned from Operation Mainline where it was a single event held monthly to a 24 hour a day option, Mesa PD officers have made over 4000 contacts and referred into the program nearly 1000 people. Since that time over 900 people have exited homelessness in a positive manner to include 131 children, 26 veterans and 112 persons over 62 years of age including 11 over the age of 70; all experiencing homelessness and in real terms lives saved from the streets by Mesa Police Officers.

This video of Shane's story is just one example. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwzutWEx2WM>

March 2022



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The extensive program has received media attention as well as national attention including recognition by then Secretary of the Department Housing Urban Department Dr. Ben Carson.



For more information on the City of Mesa's Strategic Plan to address homelessness please visit the following link:

<https://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/community-development/reducing-homelessness>



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Current Challenges

Hiring the Finest During Challenging Times

For the past several years, police departments across the nation have struggled to recruit, hire, and train new officers. Here at the Mesa Police Department, we recognize the challenge this has brought on our department. It is essential we have the best qualified candidates entering and completing the training process. Several challenges observed nationwide are occurring in our local agencies including increase in retirements, fewer applications and attitudinal changes and expectations of the community.

We are dedicated to ensuring the citizens of the City of Mesa are well represented and served by the finest officers who will uphold the high values and standards our community deserves. During these difficult times in policing, we were able to send 340 new recruits to our Mesa Police Training Academy over the last 3 years. We have met this challenge head on with innovative hiring initiatives.

The first initiative we were able to implement is a Hiring Bonus for new and lateral officers. We now offer \$3,500 for new officers and a \$5,000 bonus for lateral officers. The payments are divided into half at start of training and the second half after training is completed.

Within our Hiring Section, we expanded the opportunities for recruit testing to 6 times per year. The background process has been streamlined with a new software program that led to timelier hiring decisions by being able to process hiring files more quickly. Our Hiring Section set up training opportunities for potential recruits to practice on the physical agility events required for successful entry to the Basic Police Academy. Another initiative adopted was installing several of the obstacle course events in a centrally located City of Mesa Park, along with training videos with tips on how to be successful in the physical test.

If a potential police recruit passes the written entrance exam but fails the physical test, we allow them to continue in the background process. The candidate must successfully pass the physical test prior to a conditional offer of employment. The applicants are allowed 9 months from the date they took the written exam to pass the physical agility test. During that timeframe, our hiring section members offer structured workout programs, nutrition plans, and the ability to test each month.

Our Recruiting and Hiring Sections are exploring options for a different written testing process that would allow applicants to test virtually. This option would allow out of state applicants take the written test from any place in the United States prior to making a trip out to Mesa. For all applicants, they would be able take the written test from the convenience of home thus increasing the participation rate in the test which is traditionally low.

The City of Mesa allows us to “over hire” new recruits with the anticipation of upcoming departures with retirements and estimated resignations. This “over hire” process ensures we have officers completing the basic training evolution (approximately 1 year) in time to be deployed as a solo police officer. This reduces the timeframe from when an anticipated loss of officers is realized, and their replacement is ready for full deployment.



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Our department is fully committed to ensuring our sworn personnel reflects the demographics of our community. In so doing, we remain in line with ethnic and racial diversity of our citizens and the members of our department. We have an ongoing initiative we committed to in 2021, and that is to have 30 percent of incoming police recruits in basic academy classes will be female by the year 2030. This 30x30 initiative is a large step in addressing a difficult demographic component, that is women in policing. The Mesa Police Department is currently 13.4% female with the national average around 12%. We have an important objective to meet in the years to come.

The Mesa Police Department is proactive in our recruiting and hiring practices to meet the challenges faced within our law enforcement profession. As it becomes more difficult to fill the ranks of policing, we are dedicated to being out in front of the challenge and remain vigilant in our hiring practices to identify and train the next generation of dedicated law enforcement professionals.





Mesa Police Department
Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

For Release: March 2, 2022
Contact: Sergeant Chuck Trapani
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News Release

Accreditation Assessment Team for the Mesa Police Department Invites Public Comment

Mesa, AZ – A team of assessors from the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ALEAP) will arrive on March 8th and 9th, 2022 to examine all aspects of the Mesa Police Department’s policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. Accreditation is a voluntary program to provide public and professional recognition to agencies who prove they meet the standards of the program.

As part of this final on-site assessment, employees and members of the general public are invited to provide comments to the Assessment Team. They may do so by telephone or email. The public may call [REDACTED] on Wednesday March 9th, between the hours of 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Email comments can be sent to kevin.rhea@azchiefsofpolice.org.

Telephone comments are limited to five (5) minutes and must address the agency’s ability to comply with the Commission’s standards. A copy of the standards is available for inspection at the Mesa Police Department Headquarters building located at 130 N. Robson Mesa, AZ 85201.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Mesa Police Department’s ability to comply with the standards for accreditation is requested to email the Accreditation Program Manager at kevin.rhea@azchiefsofpolice.org or write the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program at 75 E. Civic Center Drive, Gilbert, AZ 85296.

Accreditation is valid for a four-year period during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting to their continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

The Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP) is the accrediting agency in the State of Arizona. For more information regarding the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police please visit: www.azchiefsofpolice.org.



Mesa Police Department
Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

Subject Matter Expert Contact List

Name	Title	Extension
Supervisor-Lisa Tautimez	Evidence	[REDACTED]
Administrator-Liz Wilttrout	Records	[REDACTED]
Supervisor-Sara Langston	Records	[REDACTED]
Lieutenant-Mark Higbee	Professional Standards	[REDACTED]
Sergeant-Greg Love	Professional Standards	[REDACTED]
Lieutenant-Ryan Stokes	Fusion	[REDACTED]
Sergeant-Matt Kuntz	Fusion	[REDACTED]
Administrator-Tara Hall	Community Engagement	[REDACTED]
Administrator-Christina Vangorden	Holding Facility	[REDACTED]
Lieutenant-Joel Reynolds	Advanced Training	[REDACTED]
Lieutenant-James Schmidt	Basic Training	[REDACTED]
Administrator-Randy Wilson	Aviation	[REDACTED]
Administrator-Kristen Molander	Communications	[REDACTED]
Commander-James McCormick	Special Operations	[REDACTED]
Lieutenant-Jason Coon	Traffic	[REDACTED]

Extension numbers can be dialed internally from any city phone.

To call from an outside number, add 480-644-extension number.