

# INTEROFFICE MEMO

## OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and  
Members of City Council

**DATE:** September 21, 2021

**FROM:** R. Joel Stern  
City Attorney

**SUBJECT:** CHAPTER 5 AMENDMENTS; OUR FILE NO. 21-020

The Apache Junction City Code, Vol. I, Chapter 5, Municipal Court, is in need of revision to allow Presiding Magistrate Aaron Doug LaSota the ability to recommend for appointment to council a part-time associate magistrate as well as a judicial assistant who will, in the absence of the associate magistrate and presiding magistrate, handle limited criminal matters such as initial appearances, arraignments, plea agreements and uncontested matters, and on occasion will handle civil traffic and other civil matters. Judge LaSota has noted the administrative justification for these positions in a separate memo. The code amendment also eliminates the reference to pro-tem magistrates since they are only authorized under Arizona law to adjudicate superior court and justice of the peace cases.

Staff recommends approval of Ordinance 1512 which includes the Chapter 5 amendments to be adopted by reference with Resolution No. 21-41 declaring the amendments a public record.



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R. Joel Stern  
City Attorney