



250 East First Avenue
Mesa, Arizona 85210

mesaaz.gov

August 18, 2014

Chief Justice Scott Bales
1501 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Chief Justice Bales:

AMCAD's sudden and untimely decision to discontinue development and support of AJACS forced a review of options given Mesa's continued use of a high risk unsupported mainframe environment. This evaluation was predicated by a deadline that Mesa has been facing --- and extending --- for over two years where skilled resources for the platform have dwindled and the platform itself is on unsupported versions of software with costly right to use licensing. This situation combined with the projected time for completion of testing, and remaining development of items, such as web-services, several interfaces, and conversion, clearly indicated a significant risk in implementing by June 2015, the scheduled date for shut-down of the city's mainframe.

Consequently, in order to guarantee Mesa's ability to migrate from the mainframe to a replacement CMS, a strategic and technically driven decision was made to implement Tempe's CMS. Mesa was previously involved in the late stages of development and testing of the Tempe system in 2009. Mesa's familiarity and technical knowledge of the Tempe system, along with a current evaluation of the system, has provided us with complete confidence that we will be able to implement this system, with added functionality, prior to the critical June 2015 deadline.

We believe this decision to be the best long term solution for the Mesa Municipal Court. Discussions between Mesa and AMCAD had centered upon a relationship that would combine AMCAD's development resources with Mesa's culture of innovation and use of technology, serving both AMCAD's product development and Mesa's efforts at innovation. Although this opportunity no longer exists, the Mesa Court and Mesa IT Department have resolved to establish all the technical resources needed to support the court's development. The strong consensus among knowledgeable court staff, Mesa IT technical staff, and business analysts is that the Tempe system is viable, well documented, and flexible enough to support the Mesa Municipal Court's automation efforts well into the future.



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This difficult but important decision by Mesa does not represent a criticism of AJACS. Chronic delays and rescheduling on the part of AMCAD pushed project timelines to a crisis stage for Mesa. Despite project difficulties, AJACS contains the high level of functionality and automated processes that was demanded throughout development. The basic system is delivered, but there is a significant measure of work that remains through testing and validation. As AOC's efforts continue, there should be no doubt that we will see a very highly functional system in service for the courts. It is also worth comment that the efforts in support of this project by the AOC, the Mesa Court and the Mesa IT Dept. were nothing less than extraordinary. Their commitment was 100% --- 100% of the time. Through the shared experience of this difficult project, Mesa will always hold the highest regard and respect for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Matias Tafoya".

J. Matias Tafoya
Presiding Judge
Mesa Municipal Court
480-644-4648

JMT/eda

cc: Dave Byers
Mike Baumstark
Karl Heckart
Diane Gardner

From: Bales, Scott [<mailto:SBales@courts.az.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 10:42 AM

To: Matt Tafoya

Cc: Byers, Dave; Baumstark, Mike; Heckart, Karl; Diane Gardner; Pelander, John

Subject: RE:

Dear Judge Tafoya:

I appreciate your meeting with us to discuss Mesa's decision to leave AJACS. The Mesa Municipal Court, as you explain in your letter, was placed in a difficult position by AMCAD's abrupt decision to stop work on AJACS, given the June 2015 deadline you face for leaving the City's mainframe. Like you, I think that the AOC, the Mesa Court, and the Mesa IT Department made extraordinary efforts on the AJACS project, and I expect those efforts will prove valuable in the future. As we discussed when we met, you will need to ask the Commission on Technology (COT) to grant your court an exception to the state standard case management system, AJACS. Stewart Bruner, staff to the COT, can provide you or Paul Thomas with the forms and an explanation of the exception process.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Mesa Municipal Court on other efforts to improve the administration of justice in Arizona.

Regards,

Scott Bales
Chief Justice
Arizona Supreme Court
(602) 452-3534