

Bronson's final meeting is contentious

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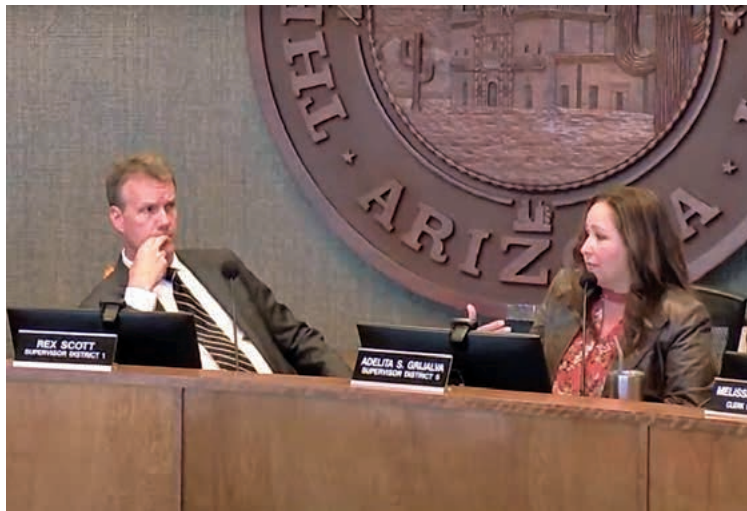
District 3 Supervisor Sharon Bronson's formal resignation turned contentious Tuesday as the board discussed the appointment process for her replacement.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors unanimously accepted Bronson's resignation effective Nov. 27.

"I'm not leaving on a sad note," Bronson, who has served 27 years, told the board. "I think I didn't really want to be somebody who stayed there too long. This was a wake-up call."

Bronson announced her plans to resign Nov. 13, following a four-day hospital stay after tripping over her 19-year-old cat. A county spokesman said Bronson's staff would remain in place to cover constituent services.

Supervisors also approved a plan for appointing someone to fill Bronson's seat for the remainder of her term, ending Dec. 31, 2024. All five supervisor seats will be open in the November 2024 election. As of Tuesday, the county's Elections Department report-



County Supervisors Rex Scott, left, and Chair **Adelita Grijalva** at Tuesday's meeting.

ed three statements of interest for the District 3 primary election — all Democrats, including Bronson, who filed Oct. 24, before her injury.

Applicants, who must be at least 18 and a District 3 resident, have until Dec. 1 to submit their information to the Clerk of the Board. They also must be a registered Democrat, same party as Bronson.

Supervisor Adelita Grijalva said the board plans to appoint Bronson's replacement at the Dec. 19 meeting. During the board's Dec. 5 meeting, supervisors will provide an update on application numbers and whether they will hold a candidate forum.

The discussion surrounding a proposed questionnaire for candidates turned tense, with Bronson chastising the 13 questions as

reminiscent of "Nazi Germany," adding, "Who do you want to elect, Adelita?"

Supervisor Steve Christy, the lone Republican on the board, echoed Bronson's sentiment that the questions were an "agenda" for a specific candidate.

"I think we should throw the list out — the supervisors can attend the League of Women Voters meeting, hear what the candidates have to say, even ask questions, they can interview the candidates individually, privately," he said. "But this is really something that has never been done before. We do not need a questionnaire."

Christy also said the questions didn't reflect what District 3 residents would want.

Supervisor Rex Scott had concerns about questions dealing with specific policy issues and one he considered too hypothetical as areas to cut, but he added that the general questions were good. Scott also wanted to add a question about whether applicants planned to run for District 3's seat in the 2024 election.

Grijalva acknowledged there wasn't a consensus on the ques-

tionnaire.

"And, so, I think that what I will do is utilize this questionnaire and for anyone who wants to apply for this position, and wants to have a conversation with me about it, I will ask these questions," she said. "But I don't want that to be something that is maligning this process or have Supervisor Bronson feeling that I'm trying in any way to manipulate or rig whatever this process is — I don't appreciate that at all."

Grijalva moved that the board go forward with the letter of interest, resume, financial disclosure statement, background check and rest of the process without the questionnaire. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Among the questions were:

- If you were handed \$1 million and told you could spend it on anything in the County, what would you spend it on?
- Who are your role models in politics and government?
- What do you think the County's role should be related to legal asylum seekers?

Jorge Encinas 520-547-9732

Don't get into the ring with scammers

This is the first of what will be a regular monthly column we're calling **Fraud Fighter** by former IRS Special Agent **Brian Watson**. Recently retired, Watson now works with the non-profit R.O.S.E. — Resources/Outreach to Safeguard the Elderly.



Those days are long gone. The scammers today come from organized gangs of criminals that utilize technology to commit their crimes. They are financial predators seeking to devour their victims. They are ruthless and will not stop until they take every dollar you have.

As a former Special Agent with the IRS, I know criminals target older adults because they come

from a more trusting generation, have often accumulated wealth over a lifetime, and are more likely to answer the phone. I used to think that many victims suffered from some sort of cognitive decline. In my short time in the non-profit world, the victims I have met are educated, intelligent and financially independent. Often their only mistake was answering the phone and getting into the ring with someone out of their league.

It doesn't matter how smart you are, today's scammers are professionals utilizing scripts that have proven to work. They

update their scripts to improve them. The best advice is to not to answer the phone if it is someone you don't know. If you do take a call and realize things aren't going well, you don't have to be nice. You need to hang up the phone.

How big is the problem? According to the FBI's Elder Fraud Report, Americans 60 years and older lost more than \$3 billion in 2022. The Federal Trade Commission reports that less than 20% of Americans 70 and older report being the victim of a financial scam even though this age group has the highest median loss.

There are the obvious

reasons for not reporting: embarrassment, not realizing you have been victimized, or figuring what's the point since the money is long gone.

There is one reason that was recently suggested to me. Many don't report being victimized because they don't want their family to find out about the loss because it might result in losing financial independence or even the ability to live on their own.

If you accidentally answer one of these calls, hang up and call the Sheriff's Department. In Green Valley, you can call the Pima County Sheriff's

Auxiliary Volunteers (520-351-6715) and they would be more than happy to help you out. Making that call will save you money, time and stress. Every law enforcement agency would gladly spend time with you prior to being a victim than having to deal with the aftermath of a financial scam.

Brian Watson is a Community Outreach Specialist with R.O.S.E. Resources/Outreach to Safeguard the Elderly. Go to roseadvocacy.org for more information and to sign up to receive a monthly email on the latest scams targeting seniors.

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