

**PRESS RELEASE – Statement on Court Decision on Mayoral Recall**

**DOUGLAS, AZ** (May 2, 2019) — Deputy City Clerk Alma Andrade and City Attorney Juan Pablo Flores appeared on behalf of the City at the hearing held at the Cochise Superior Court, Division in Bisbee on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The City was ordered to appear at the Order to Show Cause hearing before the Honorable David Thorn, pursuant to the Recall Petition Challenge filed by Janea Sanchez, spouse of Mayor Robert Uribe. Judge Thorn ruled the Recall Petitions against Mayor Robert Uribe did not meet state legal requirements, disqualifying them and declaring there would not be a recall election in August.

The Recall Committee headed by Tanya Duarte was represented at the hearing by former Deputy County Attorney, Roger Contreras. Janea Sanchez was represented by a legal team composed of two attorneys from the Phoenix-based firm of Ballard Spahr. The Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney, Britt Hansen was present representing the County Recorder, David Stevens. City Attorney Juan Pablo Flores was present strictly in his legal capacity as City Attorney and legal advisor to the office of the City Clerk's Office responsible for City Elections and assured Judge Thorn as City Attorney he does not represent Mayor Uribe or his spouse who had their own set of attorneys present.

Upon hearing testimony of the Recall Committee who attributed their mistakes to faulty election packets, incompetence or sabotage by the City elections office, City Attorney Flores engaged in a line of questioning designed to draw out accurate facts. In doing so, the allegations were proven inaccurate and in turn protected the integrity and reputation of the City and its election office which is guided by a complex web of state laws, guidance from the League of Arizona Cities & Towns and accountable to the Secretary of State. The recall petitions were ruled legally deficient due to failure in attaching the Recall Application to the Recall Petitions for filing on February 26, 2019. Official court order documents will follow when these become available, and please bear in mind that there is an appeal period that applies.

###