
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
January 27, 2016 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on January 27, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Upper Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap- Chair
Cheryl Anderson- Vice
Chair
Frank Johnson
Nadia Khalighi
Robert Martinez
Talmage Pearce
Martin Rios
LuAnn Schmidt
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Colleen Byron
Cliff Moon

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese
Kelly Gregan
Cmmndr Bill Peters
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Vice Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

There were no citizens present who requested to speak to the Board.

3. Approval of minutes from the October 28, 2015 HRAB meeting.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2015 meeting. Ms. Khalighi seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear a presentation by Board member, Martin Rios, regarding 21st Century Policing.

Mr. Rios told Board how last September he was able to attend the East Valley Chief of Police Association meeting hosted by the Tempe Police department. Mr. Rios was accompanied by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Chair, Phil Austin and State President of the Arizona National Latino Police Officers Association and Phoenix Police Department Detective Andrew Gomez.

He explained that the meeting was an open discussion format aimed at getting each local agency to adopt their own 21st Century Policing Forum. Creative problem solving and sharing of ideas was also encouraged. The 21st Century Policing Report was created in the hopes of strengthening the trust between officers and the communities that they serve. Since this meeting, Mr. Rios has attended two additional meeting by invitation: the Gilbert Police Community Partnership meeting

and the Scottsdale Community Partnership Committee meeting. He explained that he also has a meeting pending with Chandler PD.

Mr. Rios stated that on December 18, 2014, President Obama signed an executive order establishing an eleven man task force to deliberate on 21st Century Policing. They were tasked with finding ways to strengthen the public's trust in local law enforcement. He felt that this was imperative to promoting effective crime reduction. The shootings that occurred in Ferguson and New York, and the riots that followed, triggered efforts to build a bridge between communities and law enforcement.

Three of the main components of 21st Century Policing are confidence, transparency, and accountability. Individuals are more likely to obey laws when they when they trust that the individuals enforcing them are being non-discriminatory. Individuals who trust law enforcement are also more likely to seek help if needed and report crimes when they see them.

Urgent, safe and effective delivery of policing services are:

1. Should law enforcement culture embrace a guardian rather than a warrior mindset and build trust and legitimacy with both agencies and the public?
2. Should all Police Officers have to wear body cameras?
3. Does media coverage make Police Officers' jobs more dangerous?

The task force will hold listening sessions where they will hear testimony including proposed recommendations and receive comments and questions from the public. Most law enforcement agencies already have a community relations program in place. These forums will evaluate the approximately 52, 21st Century Policing recommendations.

Ms. Anderson request that a copy of Mr. Rios' presentation be provided to Ms. Giese and Ms. Heap. Ms. Anderson made a motion requesting that a monthly update from Mr. Rios regarding the topic of 21st Century Policing be placed on the agenda. Ms. Khalighi seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department Monthly Community Engagement Report.

(5a) Updates on Diversity related police incidents and activities.

Mr. Villa introduced Commander Bill Peters to the Board. Commander Peters oversees the Mesa Family Advocacy Center. He gave a brief overview of his work history, both before working for the City, as well as positions he's held within the City over the past 25 years. Within the Mesa Family Advocacy Center is the investigation unit which handles violent crimes suggest as rape and molestation. The Department of Child Service is also housed within this unit. There is also a new Human Exploitation and Human Trafficking unit that is onsite. There are forensically trained physicians and nurses that are onsite to

perform victim exams. Mesa's Advocacy Center was the first one to open in Arizona. Commander Peters stated that the goal is to make the building look as little like a police station as possible. They have successfully raised money to redo the building in order to make it inviting for victims, most importantly children. Ms. Anderson expressed her interest in coming to see the center and thanked Commander Peters for all of his efforts. She also requested that he update the Board with future openings or events that have to do with victim advocacy. Mr. Tompert asked if there is a space big enough to possibly hold a future Board meeting in. Commander Peters confirmed that there was. The Board stated they would consider that in the future. Commander Peters went on to explain that because the Advocacy Center has everything in one place, it can take the average processing time down from twelve hours to around four hours.

At this time, Ms. Giese informed the Board that due to Ms. Heap's poor phone connection she had left the meeting.

(5b) Updates and scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

Mr. Villa informed the Board the Hispanic Forum was being held that night at the Fiesta Police Substation. On February 4, 2016 the Youth Forum Group will meet at the City Court Building at 5:30pm. These are twenty eight youth that were part of the Police Youth Leadership Academy and they meet quarterly. Ms. Anderson queried as to what the age range is of the youth that are a part of the forum. Mr. Villa stated that they are high school aged. The Clergy Forum will be meeting on February 4, 2016 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 11am. The African American Forum will also be meeting on February 4, 2016 at 6pm in the Central Community Room. Mr. Villa informed the Board that the MPD will be holding an Aspire Academy, which is for high school aged women. They will learn about various Police and Fire related activities. This will be a live-in type of activity that will require overnight stays. The Academy will be a week long and held during spring break.

Mr. Villa informed the Board a hate-crime incident that occurred on December 27, 2015. He stated that a man came into a DJ's smoke shop on Broadway and Stapley with a sword and threatened the shop owners. The owners are of Jewish decent and the perpetrating individual was a Shiite-Iranian. There was a video of the man and the owners identified him as an individual that lived in a nearby neighborhood. MPD Detectives contacted the individual and he admitted to hating individuals of Jewish decent and Palestinian Muslims and that he would cause harm to them if given the opportunity. The individual was charged with aggravated assault and placed in jail, where he remains.

6. Discuss and take action on items presented by the Youth Diversity Education Team.

- (6a) Updates on organizing a youth community service and diversity education project (including the topic of bullying) with the Baha'i Community, Anti-Defamation League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Gay Lesbian Education Network.

Ms. Khalighi told the Board about the YDET's plan for their next service project. It will be held at Care Partnership on February 25, 2016. They will be hosting another Diversity related reading, led by older youth volunteers. She also informed the Board of a Youth Peace Building Summit that was discussed. Mr. Moon compiled some subject matter for the summit that would target ninth to twelve graders. The committee is looking to attract around 100 to 150 participants. The estimated date of the summit is April 30, 2016 from 8am to 4pm. The subcommittee will be meeting every Tuesday night until the Summit is complete. Ms. Khalighi and Mr. Rios are working on securing a location, Mr. Moon is working on finding facilitators for the event, and Mr. Martinez will be attempting to secure donations. Ms. Khalighi asked for ideas on ways to apply for funding for the event. Ms. Giese suggested that if the Committee were to partner with an organization that is already registered a non-profit that they may be able to secure more funding. In this way, the Board can market the event that they are in collaboration with a particular organization.

Ms. Khalighi stated that the YDET is also discussing a mural project. The aim is to complete a smaller mural at Care Partnership and possibly move to hosting a larger mural somewhere in downtown Mesa. They would like to complete the larger mural on the day following the Youth Peace Building Summit, so that the youth participating in the summit have the option to complete something significant with other youth that they met through the event.

Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that they were hoping to give the youth involved in the summit a t-shirt to keep as a memento. Ms. Anderson added that Chik-Fil-A has been very philanthropic in the past in regards to use service projects. Mr. Rios stated that they were hoping to raise or find funding for somewhere around \$1500. Ms. Giese also added that at a past Building Strong Neighborhoods event, Cane's Chicken came and was very interested in helping with donations.

- (6b) Updates on current local and world events that may affect youth of the City of Mesa.

Ms. Giese reminded Ms. Khalighi that it was discussed to move this agenda item and its sub-items on to the full Board agenda. Ms. Khalighi stated that by planning events around these kinds of topics, that the Committee is, in essence, addressing the issues. Mr. Tompert suggested that it is redundant to have the same items on the Subcommittee agendas, as well as the full Board agenda. And that as such, the items should be removed from the subcommittee agendas.

(6b-1) Recent policy updates to the LDS church organization involving children of same-sex couples.

This was covered under the discussion of agenda item (6b) and the motion of agenda item number 10.

(6b-2) Recent attacks that took place in San Bernardino, CA.

This was covered under the discussion of agenda item (6b) and the motion of agenda item number 10.

7. Discuss and take action on items presented by the Disabilities Action Team.

- (7a) Provide input about design standards for adapting housing for people with disabilities.

Ms. Schmidt informed the Board that the sub-committee had a City Planning and Zoning Engineer and a member of the City Housing Department visit and answer some questions related to this agenda item. The DAT had asked that Liz Morales from Housing coordinate coming to speak to the full Board with someone from Ability360.

- (7b) Updates on creating options for the best methods and topics to educate the business community on mental health and substance abuse issues for the second town hall meeting.

Ms. Anderson stated that this agenda item will be changing to address the fact that the DAT will not be holding another Town Hall meeting, but instead setting up a presentation to the Mesa Chamber of Commerce this issue.

- (7c) Updates on collecting information and recommendations about ways to support the availability of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of the ADA.

There were no recent updates regarding this item.

- (7d) Updates on recent changes to the LDS church organization involving same-sex couples.

This was covered under the discussion of agenda item (6b) and the motion of agenda item number 10.

8. Discuss and take action on items presented by the Diversity and Inclusion Report Action Team.

- (8a) Updates on identifying and evaluating options for addressing the following issues from the Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Inclusion and Diversity Report.

The Board briefly discussed the future of this subcommittee considering recent developments in the personal lives of Dr. Byron and Ms. Heap that are preventing them from being able to attend meetings.

(8a-1) Coordinating the development of a six-month long task force for the purpose of addressing issues that impact the LGBT population.

Ms. Heap is still establishing connections to assemble this task force.

(8a-2) Impact of the Hispanic or Latino community.

Ms. Giese stated that it was discussed that the Subcommittee wanted to see if Mr. Rios would be helping them in establishing a task force for this agenda item.

9. Discuss and take action on the following standing items outlined in the 2015-17 Strategic Plan.

- (9a) Updates by Dr. Byron regarding monitoring the Police Community Forums and the statistics of police activity in the community.

Dr. Byron was not present, as such, this item was deferred to the next Board meeting.

- (9b) Updates on increasing the number of speakers enrolled in the Speaker's Bureau and marketing the availability of the Speaker's Bureau as a community resource.

Mr. Moon was not present, as such, this item was deferred to the next Board meeting.

- (9c) Updates on the need for and feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley.

Ms. Anderson explained that Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care had fulfilled a portion of this agenda item. She also stated that it does not impact the longer term solution to needing more beds for psychiatric care in the East Valley. The Board decided that bringing back individuals from other organizations and the City to speak to the improvement that this facility has made before moving forward with a larger scope project.

10. Discuss and take action on local or world events that may have an impact on the City and the topic of Diversity.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to remove this item and any sub-items attached to it from the regular Board agenda as well as any subcommittee agendas. Mr. Pearce seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- (10a) Recent updates to the LDS church organization involving same-sex couples.

This was covered under the discussion of agenda item (6b) and the motion of agenda item number 10.

- (10b) Recent attacks that took place in San Bernardino, CA.

This was covered under the discussion of agenda item (6b) and the motion of agenda item number 10.

11. Hear updates, discuss, and take action on the progress of the City's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance.

Ms. Anderson reminded the Board that this item was put back on the agenda in order to keep the item relevant in their minds and to hear updates that are made. Ms. Schmidt asked what the process would be to again reminder Mayor and Council that they would like an Ordinance to be pursued. Ms. Giese explained that the Board had already made the recommendation and that they have fulfilled what they were charged with in this matter. Now, it is up to them personally to attend City Council Meetings and talk to their Council Members about revisiting this issue. The Board discussed whether or not to keep this item.

Ms. Anderson made a motion for this item to remain as a standing item on the Board's regular agenda and Mr. Johnson seconded. Vote: 4 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstained. Due to lack of true majority, the motion did not carry.

12. Discuss, consider and take action on participation in the following events:

- (12a) Annual Phoenix Pride Parade and Festival to be held on April 2, 2016.

Ms. Giese stated that she has reached out to PD to see if they are interested in partnering with the Board again. There is a meeting scheduled to discuss this in the future. Ms. Anderson regretted that she would not be able to participate in the parade this year.

13. Hear an update from the Diversity Director.

Ms. Giese made a request of the Board members to talk to their friends and colleagues about signing the OneMesa Pledge. She provided the Board with signup sheets and copies of the Pledge.

Ms. Giese also reported that the City of Mesa updated their Equal Opportunity Policy, as well as their Workplace Harassment and Discrimination Policy to not discriminate against an individual's gender identity, genetic information, and gender expression.

14. Hear reports on conferences and/or meetings attended

There were no conferences or meetings attended by the Board.

15. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information, including those set forth below.

- (15a) Next meeting will be held on February 24, 2016.
- (15b) Indie Lens Pop-Up: *Black Panthers: Vanguard of a Revolution* on February 11, 2016 at the Dobson Ranch Library located at 2425 S Dobson Rd.
- (15c) 2016 Regional Unity Walk: January 30, 2016

Each member of the Board was provided with the necessary parking pass for this event. Ms. Giese also informed the Board that the walk was changed from a morning walk to an evening walk so that members of the Jewish community are able to be involved.

16. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

***Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. State Statute prohibits the Human Relations Advisory Board from discussing any item that is not on the agenda.**

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