

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 23, 2011 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting February 23, 2011, 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

James May, Chair
Rory Gilbert, Vice Chair
Ana Cadillo
Hong Chartrand
Denise Heap
Frank Johnson
Wayne Manske
Orchidia Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terry Benelli
Stacey Dillon
Lela Hinds-Peterson

STAFF PRESENT

Mary Berumen
Brandy Howard

GUESTS

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Mr. May welcomed the board and presenters.

2. Approval of minutes from the January 26, 2011 board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Heap to approve the January 26, 2011, Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) minutes with a clarification of Ms. Gilbert's ADA concern. Mr. Manske seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Items from Citizens Present.

No items from citizens present.

4. Hear comments from Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh on the Utah Compact.

Councilmember Kavanaugh commended the board on all of the work accomplished in 2010. Councilmember Kavanaugh asked the board to research, review, and study the pros and cons of the Utah Compact and advice council if the Utah Compact would be of value to the City of Mesa.

5. Hear a presentation from Saul Solis of the East Valley Patriots.

Mr. Dan Martinez thanked the board for allowing the East Valley Patriots for American Values to come before the board to address their concerns about the States negative stance on immigration. Mr. Martinez asked the board to take action on three items: 1) go on public record and adopt the Utah Compact, 2) forward a recommendation to Mesa City Council to adopt the Utah Compact, and 3) to hold safe and civil conversations within the community about immigration using the five principles discussed in the Utah Compact.

Mr. Brian Barabe spoke about the East Valley Patriots for American Values mission statement, purpose, and goals.

Mr. Saul Solis addressed the board on the impacts the City of Mesa has had because of the loss of immigrants within city limits. Mr. Solis gave a brief explanation on how the Utah Compact could improve its financial and immigrant outcomes in creating a new positive image for Mesa.

Mr. May asked what other East Valley Cities has the group addressed and what views have they expressed. Mr. Martinez stated that the East Valley Patriots have spoken to the City of Chandler and the City of Tempe regarding the Utah Compact.

Mr. May asked if there are other States or larger government bodies looking to adopt the Utah Compact. Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that the Utah Compact did receive national coverage and that many governments are now looking into the principles within the compact.

Ms. Heap asked if the East Valley Patriots have approached the Mesa Chamber of Commerce and suggested they do so.

Ms. Cadillo encouraged the group to view the City's Web site and become involved in the City's advisory board and community groups to discuss the compact with them.

Mr. May thanked the group for presenting and providing more information regarding the Utah Compact and asked for further assistance in the coming weeks.

6. Discuss and provide direction on the Utah Compact.

Ms. Heap stated that the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team began researching immigration reform and the Utah Compact and asked the board to continue to receive input on the subject. Mr. May asked that the board continue to review all research provided by the Ad Hoc team and to gain as many perspectives as the board can to make recommendations to council.

Ms. Gilbert asked the board to determine a strategy to move forward with enough time to review research and discuss any future presentations.

Ms. Peterson stated that she would like to have more pro and con conversations from presenters with a discussion about possible outcomes of bringing a compact forward.

Mr. May asked the board if when discussing the Utah Compact if the board could look at it in a broader scope that could encompass hate crimes.

Mr. Manske stated that the board should determine a timeline so that the board can take action with a statement given to council in a timely and efficient manner.

Ms. Gilbert suggested that the board determine who should present possible negative impacts with thoughtfulness and respect; those presentations should be scheduled quickly.

Mr. Johnson asked that the board hear from everyone who would like to speak not just from experts or organizations but from the community at large.

Ms. Heap asked about scheduling since staff cancelled the March 23, HRAB meeting. Ms.

Berumen suggested that the Utah Compact be discussed and researched at Ad Hoc team meetings, the information can then be brought to the board at large.

Mr. May stated that perhaps the board can explore a more Arizona based compact as opposed to Utah.

Ms. Berumen stated that the board will need to discuss as a group what direction they will take. She reminded the board that the community has asked for action from the board, the board needs to determine what actions they will move forward. Ms. Berumen reiterated what the East Valley Patriots for American Values asked that board to take action on 1) go on public record and adopt the Utah Compact as a guiding document, 2) forward a recommendation to Mesa City Council to adopt the Utah Compact, and 3) to hold safe and civil conversations within the community about immigration using the five principles discussed in the Utah Compact. Ms. Berumen asked that a decision be made tonight concerning how the board will move forward be it at a HRAB meeting held on Wednesday, March 23 and/or in Ad Hoc teams. She stated that she has been in contact with the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office; someone from that office is willing to speak to the group. Ms. Berumen offered to have some of the Utah Compact organizers speak to the Ad Hoc team.

Mr. May reminded the board that upcoming agenda's are becoming full with items and events. Mr. May asked if staff has cancelled the regular March 23, HRAB meeting. Ms. Berumen stated that she will ensure that there is staff for that meeting. Ms. Gilbert stated that the March 23, HRAB meeting was to hold the Hate Crimes Presentations, that has now been moved forward into the April 27, HRAB meeting. The March HRAB meeting will be a follow-up to the Utah Compact conversation and to bring more information from the Ad Hoc team forward.

Mr. May asked if the Utah Compact came together fairly quickly. Ms. Heap answered that no it took awhile for everyone to agree. Ms. Gilbert expressed her opinion that to have a compact based on Arizona's needs would be ideal. Ms. Heap stated that there are states who adopt another states compacts/agreements, the Utah Compact would have more strength if states get behind the same agreement. Ms. Gilbert stated that the board while researching put together a summary for council that highlights key concepts the board has uncovered. She stated that there are two tasks the board needs to accomplish 1) to continue to get information both written and by hearing presenters and 2) pulling that information into a summary to assist council.

Mr. May asked about the Ad Hoc team meeting being held Monday, March 7, could the team's agenda is written so that the team can discuss and review the Utah Compact. Ms. Gilbert asked Ms. Berumen if someone from Salt Lake City could speak to the team during this meeting. Ms. Berumen stated she would be in contact with representatives from Salt Lake City. Ms. Gilbert also asked the team to list presenters who could speak to the board about the cons.

Ms. Berumen suggested that the board make a motion as to how to proceed with the actions requested by the East Valley Patriots for American Values.

Ms. Gilbert made a motion to proceed with the exploration of accessing the Utah Compact by tasking the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team to continue to research and for all board members to provide information, names, references, and resources so that the board can revisit the Utah Compact at the Wednesday, March 23, 2011 HRAB meeting. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Hear an update, discuss and provide direction on items presented by the:

a. Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team

- Give an update on the creation of an anti-harassment, non-discrimination ordinance for the City of Mesa

Ms. Gilbert reported that the team has not made any progress on the ordinance but has decided to move the hate crimes presentations to the April 27, HRAB meeting.

- Give an update on best practices for community response to hate crimes and assessing Mesa's response

1. Panel presentation on current status of hate crimes on March 23, 2011

Ms. Gilbert reported that the team has reviewed possible presenters and has changed the date to Wednesday, April 27 HRAB meeting.

Ms. Gilbert announced that the team has four speakers on board from the Criminal Justice System, ASU Professors, and Private non-profit/Advocacy leaders.

Ms. Berumen asked that the speakers and questions are finalized at the Monday, March 7, Ad Hoc meeting.

2. Healing Communities: A Day-Long Exploration of Perspectives' to be held Saturday, March 26, 2011, 8am – 4pm, is an event designed to create opportunities for safe and civil conversations about differences within the community.

Ms. Gilbert reported that lead facilitators are on board and that the HRAB members will be table leaders. Ms. Gilbert asked who on the board would not be attending. Ms. Heap asked if any outreach/publicity has been sent and also if food donations have been solidified. Ms. Berumen stated that she has contacted the PIO office and the organization that will assist with food.

b. Ad Hoc Marketing Strategies Project Team

- Give an update on the progress made on logo, brochure, and Web

Mr. May reported on the progress made toward completing the brochure. Ms. Howard stated that the brochure is being reviewed by the PIO Office however, they are discussing if a brochure is needed at all. Ms. Berumen stated that Ms. Howard did create a board flyer listing upcoming events that can be handed out in the interim.

- Give an update on the progress made on updating and adding to the emerging community list.

No updates were given.

8. Discuss and provide direction on board and committee meeting attendance.

Agenda items was discussed and addressed in agenda item number five.

9. Mesa Police Department Report.

- a. Police Forums
- b. Diversity Team
- c. Hate Crimes Update

No report was given.

Ms. Heap announced that there is a Police Forums meeting for all forums on Thursday, March 17, 6:00 pm in the Downtown Community Room.

Ms. Berumen welcomed and introduced some members of the Mesa Police Diversity team.

10. Diversity Officer's Report:

- a. Hear an update on the Diversity Office and Neighborhood Outreach Office, Fair Housing and Human Services activities.

Ms. Berumen briefly explained the organizational changes that the Neighborhood Services Department is going through including the resignation of Ms. Brandy Howard. Ms. Gilbert along with the board expressed their thanks to Ms. Howard for all she has accomplished in her short time with the board. Ms. Gilbert expressed that Ms. Howard has set the bar high, her organizational skills and positive attitude will be missed.

Ms. Berumen explained that the Building Strong Neighborhoods events continue to bring the community together to discuss issues happening within neighborhoods.

- b. Community Cinema Series on a quarterly basis

Ms. Howard gave a brief explanation of the next Community Cinema Series film being presented tomorrow evening (Thursday, February 24).

Ms. Berumen updated the board that staff will be looking at the feasibility of staffing a cinema series every month, perhaps collaborating with the Mesa Police Diversity Team will allow the series to continue on a monthly basis.

Ms. Gilbert asked about locations in the future and offered to assist if a location change is ever needed.

- c. Alston House Grand Opening on April 15 and 16, 2011

Ms. Berumen invited the board to the Alston House Grand Opening on April 15 and 16. She will forward the invitation to the board at a later date. Ms. Berumen stated that a member of the Alston House will speak to the board about their fundraising campaign.

Ms. Berumen informed the board that because of staffing changes it would be extremely helpful to reach quorum as quickly as possible, the Project Plan has a list of upcoming meeting dates and events; it will be extremely important to let staff know your availability as quickly as possible. Ms. Berumen suggested that upcoming meeting agendas are set at the end of every meeting which will assist in posting agendas to the web and to the board in a timely manner.

11. Report on conferences and/or meetings attended.

No reports were given.

12. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

Ms. Peterson recognized the Mesa Police Diversity team and thanked them for their expressed interest in the Utah Compact. She stated that she would like to know law enforcement's position and stance on the compact.

Mr. May reported that the Regional Unity Walk on Saturday, February 5, went well with approximately 45 Mesa residents participating.

Mr. Manske reported that the Anti-Defamation League presented a film at Scottsdale Community College on National Movement of Indian Schools. He also reported that at Mesa Community College that an art exhibit in the Library is appearing about women's issues happening within the Congo.

Mr. May reminded the board about the ADA Mobility Center Grand Opening taking place this afternoon and tomorrow (Thursday, February 24).

13. Adjourn

Mr. May adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:32 p.m.

***The next regular meeting is on March 23, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.
Lower Level, City Council Chambers.***

Submitted By:

Mary Berumen,
Diversity Office Director