
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
September 28, 2016 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on September 28, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Tompert- Chair
Nadia Khalighi- Vice Chair
Colleen Byron
Joseph Holmes
Robert Martinez
Cliff Moon
Martin Rios

MEMBERS ABSENT

Talmage Pearce
Cassandra Sampson
Louis Wade

STAFF PRESENT

Comm. Sharon
Burlingame
Cynthia Ezcurra
Bethany Freeland
Kelly Gregan
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Yesenia Gutierrez

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Mr. Tompert called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

2. Items from citizens present. *

3. Approval of minutes from the August 24, 2016 HRAB meeting.

Ms. Khalighi made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2016 meeting. Dr. Byron seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

(4a) Updates on Diversity related police incidents and activities.

Mr. Villa introduced Commander Sharon Burlingame to the Board. Commander stated that she is over the Criminal Investigations Division. There are two main components to the Criminal Investigations unit: crimes and the Mesa Family Advocacy Center. The Mesa Family Advocacy Center deals with crimes that involve families, such as: child crimes, domestic violence, human trafficking, etc. There have also been two more Officers added to the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) which deals with mental calls. They have developed a Mental Health Advisory Board. All of the members on the Board are in the mental health field. The Board consists of individuals from places such the Marc Center, Community Bridges, mental health providers. The Board currently meets every two months. Commander Burlingame also gave some additional information regarding the Human Trafficking Squad (HTS). That began gaining momentum in January of 2016. The HTS has already had some success identifying individuals who were trafficking women and getting those women placed into victim's services. Commander Burlingame is also the new LGBTQ Liaison to the Mesa Police Department.

(4b) Updates on scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

Mr. Villa informed the Board that there will be an African American Community Forum meeting on November 10, 2016 at 6PM. It will be held at the Holy Trinity Church on 220 S. Chestnut. This meeting will be a little different due to the fact that other advisory boards have been invited and they will be hosting it as a potluck. There will also be a ten question agenda that will be discussed amongst those that attend.

Mr. Villa also shared that he participated in an event called the Concert to End Gun Violence which was held at Mesa Community College. The MPD had a table with officers in attendance addressing questions regarding this national initiative. He also stated that he would be attending the East Valley NAACP meeting this coming weekend at the Double Tree hotel located in Gilbert. Mr. Villa informed the Board that the MLK Committee is planning on returning to the celebration day format that had been used in the past. There will be a breakfast, parade, and festival all on one day.

(4c) Update by Dr. Byron regarding the Police Community Forums and statistics of police activity in the community.

Mr. Villa explained that he met with Mr. Tompert and Dr. Byron and it was concluded that there isn't really an efficient and detailed tracking system currently in place. The data that is available can be a bit lacking. The MPD is inviting a group in to assess their methods of data collection and recommend ways to bolster it. The goal is to be as transparent as possible and to have information available to the public in many forms, including online. He also stressed that it is important to the department to always be evaluating their data and to address any issues there may be before they become bigger. The Mesa Police Department is known as one of the most proactive police department in the country. Dr. Moon asked if there are any plans to incorporate implicit bias training into the current deputy curriculum. Mr. Villa stated that the department is already moving on this type of training. Commander Burlingame expanded by saying that two officers recently went to a conference in Kansas City that covered this subject. It was a "train the trainer" course, so those two officers are now able to bring the material back and train additional resources. Mr. Rios thanked the Mesa Police Department for all of their hard work and the forward motion of their training initiatives regarding 21st century policing.

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

(5a) Organizing a meeting and presentation regarding individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Tompert stated that he met with the COO of Marc Community Resources just this morning to discuss continuing with this agenda item. Adaless Meek will now be assisting Mr. Tompert in putting together the presentation. He also said that a meeting had been scheduled for October 20, 2016 in order to put information for the presentation together and that Mr. Bill McCallister will contact the Chamber in order to schedule a date for the presentation. Dr. Byron asked if she could be present for the meeting, as well.

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

(6a) Updates by Mr. Rios regarding 21st Century Policing.

Mr. Rios extended an offer to the new Board members to meet with him, if they wish, to learn more about 21st Century Policing is all about so that they can understand the importance of this agenda item. He explained that a 21st Century Policing force was recently comprised of various members of law enforcement agencies in order to address fostering trust and understanding between communities and their law enforcement officers. According to a one-year update that was released, at least nine states and several counties have taken steps to address some of the recommendations made by this task force. Mr. Rios goes on to say that these successes are just a drop in the bucket compared to the amount of change that still need to be done. President Obama has said that the start to change has been an especially slow one.

(6b) 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.

Ms. Freeland informed the Board that she had sent the information to all of the new Board members to see if they would be interested in joining. She also stated that she sent the information to more individuals who the Diversity office has had contact with. Dr. Byron asked Ms. Freeland to send the information to her, as well.

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

Mr. Tompert stated that we will revisit stating the Board's support of this item in January 2017. Dr. Byron also said she would be talking to several councilmembers in the upcoming week and that she would mention the Board's support to them.

8. Hear reports on conferences and/or meetings attended.

Mr. Rios stated that he recently attended a Rock the Vote event at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. There were student forums that addressed key political issues. He was also invited to attend the Hispanic Student Organization (HSO) meeting. This group was organized to help foster a better understanding of Latino culture within the community.

(8a) Regional Human Relations Commission meeting that was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that the meeting went well. All of the local Human Relation Commissions touched base on things they've accomplished over the past year or so. Ms. Freeland expanded on that and gave examples of some the programs that neighboring cities are partaking in. She also stated that there will be another HRC meeting coming up in the early part of 2017. Mr. Holmes added that he took some notes on the challenges and goals that each HRC discussed.

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

(9a) The next subcommittee meetings will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016: Youth Diversity Education Team beginning at 5:00PM and Disabilities Action Team beginning at 5:45PM.

It was discussed possibly moving the meeting date and times back to their original slots on the second Tuesday's of the month. Ms. Freeland agreed to check on the availability of the meeting space and send an email out to the Committee members to get an official consensus on what works best for them.

(9b) The next Board meeting will be held on October 26, 2016 at 6:00PM.

(9c) Veteran's Day Parade and Benefit Concert- Friday, November 11, 2016.

10. Take picture of full Board for the 2016-2017 year.

This item will be moved to the next agenda, as there are too many members missing to take it.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

***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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