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**CITY OF MESA  
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)  
March 22, 2017 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on March 22, 2017 at 6:00pm at Mesa City Plaza 20 E Main St Suite 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Tompert – Chair  
Joseph Holmes  
Winnie Kaplan  
Robert Martinez  
Martin Rios  
Cassandra Sampson  
Keola Tweedy

MEMBERS ABSENT

Collen Byron  
Nadia Khalighi  
Cliff Moon  
Louis Wade

STAFF PRESENT

Com. Mike Beaton  
Bethany Freeland  
Ruth Giese  
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order

Mr. Tompert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Discuss and vote on position of Vice Chair.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to elect Dr. Moon as the HRAB Vice Chair for the 2016-2017 Board Year. Ms. Sampson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Items from Citizens Present. \*

There were no citizens present to speak to the Board.

4. Approval of minutes from the February 22, 2017 HRAB meeting.

Ms. Sampson made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2017 Board meeting. Ms. Tweedy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Villa introduced Mesa Police Commander Mike Beaton. Commander Beaton stated he is currently overseeing the Metro Division. The Metro Division is the patrol support division. One of the things that they are currently researching are unmanned aerial vehicles. Ms. Tweedy asked if there was anything specific that his unit was considering that the HRAB could be of assistance with. Commander Beaton stated that he will soon be taking over a Use of Force review board. He asked for any input that the Board may have on running a board of that nature or things that they could begin focusing on be relayed to him. Mr. Tompert requested that Mr. Villa provide the Board with regular updates on the new Use of Force board. Mr. Villa also stated that he and Commander Beaton have noticed a rise in individuals commenting on the recent immigrations law changes.

Commander Beaton explained that there are three officers who work in the holding facility who work solely on the 287(g) process. And their work only begins once someone has already been arrested for a crime. They do not seek out immigrants. Mr. Tompert asked what records the 287(g) officers have access to when questioning someone in holding. Commander Beaton stated that they have very basic computer access to a portal that lists date of birth, name, and basic information. Mr. Tompert questioned how this affects the City being considered a sanctuary city. Mr. Villa stated that we are not considered one. Commander Beaton also commented that he recently had the opportunity to attend a three-month leadership training and he really got a sense of where Mesa stacks up against cities in all fifty states. He says he is confident in the strides that Mesa is making recently.

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

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

Mr. Villa informed the Board that there is an Asian Advisory Board meeting coming up on May 9, 2017 and will be held at Dobson Pediatrics. They are also putting on an event on May 9, 2017 at the Fiesta Police Department Substation. The event is inviting Mr. Barry Wong, Equal Opportunity Director for the State Governor's Office, to be keynote speaker. They are also inviting local businesses to participate. The hope is to engage the Asian community within Mesa and get them more involved on matters relating to the PD.

Also, the Hispanic Advisory Board meeting will be held at the Fiesta Police Department Substation on April 26, 2017 at 6PM. Mr. Villa also mentioned that PD would be participating in the Phoenix Pride Parade coming up Sunday, April 2, 2017.

Mr. Villa also informed the Board that the Police Department is working to get the date, times, and locations of all the advisory Boards up on their website. They are hoping to have them up by April 15, 2017.

(5c) Updates by Dr. Byron regarding the Police Community Forums and statistics of police activity in the community.

Mr. Villa said that there is currently no update on this agenda item.

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

(6a) Organize youth community service projects and public education including the topic of Diversity through organizations such as: The Baha'i Community, Anti-Defamation League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Gay and Lesbian Education Network.

(6a-1) Organizing of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Peace Building Summit.

Ms. Freeland stated that the Subcommittee is working to bring the final pieces of the Summit together. There are going to be approximately 120 students and their school counselors in attendance. The Subcommittee and the City will be providing breakfast,

lunch, and resource bags for each of the students. Set up is planned to begin at 6:45AM at Wilkes University (245 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St), with the Summit concluding at 3:30PM.

- (6a-2) Organizing a mural project at Community Partners School.

There are no updates on this item.

- (6a-3) Organizing additional Youth Reading Service Projects.

There are no updates on this item.

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

- (7a) Updates by Mr. Rios regarding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

Mr. Rios discussed an article on officer wellness. This includes mental and emotional distress, as well as physical factors that affect them during their day to day work. The incidence of these kinds of damages are present five times more often than the national average of other occupational hazards. The United States Department of Justice has made available a library of resources to help agencies be better equipped to handle these cases.

- (7b) 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 forwarded the information regarding the Speaker's Bureau to Board Members Tweedy and Kaplan. Ms. Tweedy asked what the qualifications for the Bureau are. Ms. Giese stated that there aren't solid qualifications needed. It would consist of individuals who are in contact with a certain subject matter related to Diversity daily and has the knowledge to speak on it. She also reminded the Board that the Speaker's Bureau would be offered to the public as a free service.

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

Ms. Giese informed the Board that Mayor Giles would like to attend the April 2017 HRAB meeting to discuss this item. Mr. Tompert also requested a draft of the ordinance for the Board to view prior to meeting with Mayor. Ms. Giese stated that there was no draft ever conceived. Mr. Tompert reminded the Board that they are appointed by the Mayor and Council to be advisors and representatives of the City.

9. Discuss promoting greater awareness of diversity, inclusion, and tolerance in Mesa educational institutions based on the results of the Mesa Opinion Survey of 2014.

Ms. Giese stated that Dr. Cliff and Dr. Byron prepared a draft letter, but have yet to be able to review edits made by the Diversity office. She also informed the Board that Dr. Cowan and Ms. Sears of the Mesa Public School district have agreed to talk to the Board on matters of Diversity.

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

Mr. Tompert informed the Board that he met with Sally Harrison of the Mesa Chamber of Commerce about moving forward with the presentation to Mesa businesses regarding hiring practices of individuals with mental health issues. Mr. Tompert shared a trifold handout and video that will both be utilized in the presentation. He also stated that the Committee has been invited to have a booth at an upcoming Mesa Morning Live event. Ms. Tweedy asked if the Board was in contact with anyone from Arizona Workforce Connections. Mr. Tompert stated that he has not been, but is welcome to getting other organizations involved in the presentation.

Ms. Tweedy informed the Board that she attended the Mesa Veterans Court session on February 28, 2017. She stated that it was a very informative experience. Mr. Tompert stated that he also enjoyed the experience and that he hopes it can be a beacon for other municipal courts to follow.

Ms. Tweedy also stated that she attended the Indie Lens Pop-Up! Screening of *The Bad Kids* at the Mesa Main Branch Library. She said that the post film discussion was quite robust, but that she didn't feel the event was marketed very well. Ms. Freeland informed that Board that next month's screening will be held at Mesa Community College and that she hopes the new venue will help to bolster attendance. Ms. Tweedy stated that the Diversity office should reach out to Phi Theta Kappa group at the college and see if they would be interested in helping to promote the series.

Ms. Tweedy also recently met with the President of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Arizona. She also attended the Executive Board Meeting later that week to be apprised of their calendar of events. Ms. Freeland and Ms. Tweedy will work on a way to disseminate all that information to the Board.

Ms. Tweedy also informed the Board that on the fourth Saturday of each month her hula school will host a kanikapila, and individuals are invited to attend.

The City of Chandler is gathering origami cranes to make an exhibit in remembrance of the internment of the Japanese people. The cranes are being donated by various valley cities, as well as cities out of state. They are trying to gather enough cranes so that there are enough to represent everyone who was present in the internment camps.

Mr. Rios stated that on Thursday, March 9, 2017 he attended the retirement for Chief Tim Dorn. The retirement celebrated the Chief's many career accolades and highlights. Mr. Rios was there representing the HRAB.

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

Ms. Tweedy let the Board know that Lau Kanaka is going to be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter MCAHCC (Mainland Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs). A delegation of Lau Kanaka members and MCAHCC representatives will be making a visit to the Saguaro Prison in Eloy, AZ on May 5, 2017. She stated that there may be space available for another Board member to attend. They will also be making a trip to the Heard Museum. Lau Kanaka will also be hosting their annual scholarship luau on Saturday, April 6, 2017.

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- (11a) The next Subcommittee meetings will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017: Youth Diversity Education Team beginning at 5:00PM and Disabilities Action Team beginning at 5:45PM. This time, date, and/or location may be subject to change.
- (11b) The next Board meeting will be held on April 26, 2017 at 6:00PM at the Lower Level Mesa City Council Chambers.
- (11c) Phoenix Pride Parade- Sunday, April 2, 2017 with parade step-off at 10:00AM. The parade will begin at 3<sup>rd</sup> St and Thomas.
- (11d) YDET 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Peace Building Summit- Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Wilkes University (245 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Mesa, AZ 85201).

12. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

**\*Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. The Arizona Open Meeting Law (ARS § 38-431 et seq.) limits the Human Relations Advisory Board to discussing only those matters listed on the agenda and other matters related thereto.**

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**Si necesita asistencia o traducción en español, favor de llamar al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión al 480-644-2767.**