

**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
January 25, 2017 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on January 25, 2017
at 6:00 p.m. in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Tompert – Chair
Nadia Khalighi – Vice-Chair
Colleen Byron
Winnie Kaplan
Robert Martinez
Cliff Moon
Martin Rios
Keola Tweedy
Louis Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Holmes
Cassandra Sampson

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese
Emily Greco
Kelly Gregan
Lt. Scott Martin
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order

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

2. Introduction of New Board Members

New Board Members Keola Tweedy and Winnie Kaplan introduced themselves.

3. Items from Citizens Present. *

There were no citizens present.

4. Approval of minutes from the December 7, 2016 HRAB meeting

Dr. Moon made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2016 meeting; Dr. Byron seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of 9-0.

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 Lieutenant Scott Martin to the Board. Lieutenant Martin is from the Red Mountain Police Division. He thanked the Human Relations Advisory Board for all that they do. Lieutenant Martin explained that he is second in charge under Commander Butler. There are four patrol districts in the city of Mesa, and the Red Mountain Police Division is in the center of Mesa. They cover a large area of both large commercial areas and residential areas. The demographics vary from multi-million dollar homes to mobile home parks. Red Mountain Police Division is known for doing projects in the community

with their “Community Action Team”. Currently they have a mentoring program at Hawthorne Elementary School, helping kids have a positive influence in their lives.

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

Mr. Villa informed the Board that Chief Dvorak was a part of a travelling forum in Scottsdale, called “The Bridge Forum”. This forum had Police Departments meet with local leaders in the area. The Governor spoke, as well as other local officials and guest speakers. The forum included a panel discussion and break-out sessions. Many issues were discussed, such as community engagement, media relations, bias, and trust. The Forum made apparent the different relationships that local police departments have with the communities they serve.

The Police Department will be participating in the Unity Walk this upcoming Saturday, January 28th.

There is not another advisory board meeting set up yet. They are trying to set up the African American Community Forum meeting the end of February. Their goal this year is to get all of the organizations to set up a standing date for their meetings/events, instead of having floating date.

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

Mr. Villa informed the Board that the study to collect statistics on police activity has not started yet. There have been a few issues with the consultant. Currently, the Police Department does have a portal that includes some statistics and information on activities, however the “correct” type of information is not currently collected. The Police Department is trying to put together a format so that the correct information can be collected.

Mr. Villa gave an update on the “PACT” (Police and Community Together) program. He stated that they have the volunteers, but they haven’t received response back yet from their contact, but it is ready to go from their end. This program links officers with community members for a 30-day period, to get to know each other, get to know what each other does, and to share differences.

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 2nd Annual Youth Peace Building Summit.

Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that the Youth Diversity Education Sub-Committee met last week and set a tentative date for April 8th for the Summit. However, Wilkes University just notified them that that date was no longer available. Unfortunately, the information for the date of the Summit had already been sent out to local junior high schools. Discussion occurred whether the date should remain and a different venue be used, or whether another date at Wilkes University would be better. Dr. Moon indicated that the April 15th date was still available at Wilkes University, and suggested that a notice be sent to principals and counselors of the date change.

Ms. Khalighi stated that she is keeping Dr. Cowan informed, and that she will include Dr. Cowan, the Diversity Office, and the schoolboard member involved on future correspondence. The curriculum used last year will not be available this year, due to Dr. Young not being available this year. The sub-committee is working with a teacher from Dobson High School this year – she uses a curriculum from the Anti-Defamation League, “A World of Difference”.

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

Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that this project will be pushed to the Fall.

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

Due to the Peace Building Summit in April, there will not be any time to plan any projects.

Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that the Sub-Committee will be meeting weekly, starting in February until the Summit, on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

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

- (7a) Organizing a meeting and presentation regarding individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues to the Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Byron informed the Board that there is nothing to report at this time on the Chamber of Commerce meeting. Once the needed demographic information is sent to the Disabilities Action Team, they will be able to continue forward.

Dr. Byron discussed an opportunity to visit the Veterans Court. It is tentatively scheduled for February 28th at 7:00 a.m., then again in the afternoon. The entire Board is invited to attend. This will be an opportunity to see the whole process. We have a good Veterans Court model. There is a movement to extend the Veterans Court model to other populations, such as reaching homeless and other vulnerable members of our community.

Dr. Young from the Mesa United Way is scheduled to present at the next sub-committee meeting.

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

(8a) Updates by Mr. Rios regarding 21st Century Policing.

Mr. Rios gave an update on the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). COPS announced a release of two reports pertaining to the collaborative reform initiative for the CRIPA program.

The first report has to do with the collaborative reform process, and the incentive for different organizations and agencies who participate. This report highlights what worked well with these organizations and agencies, what needs improvement, and that this initiative can be an effective tool, and offers suggestions for improvement. The report suggests that law enforcement leaders need to take an introspective look at their operations, and see what they can do to change/reform and have success in the 21st century.

The second report is regarding the reform initiative with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). The report looks at the lessons learned from the ambush incident where two police officers were killed in Las Vegas. This report has an analysis of the long-term effect of the Collaborative Reform Initiative.

(8b) 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. Giese talked about the purpose of the Bureau, and reminded the Board members that as they meet different people with varying backgrounds, expertise, training, etc. that are diversity related, that their names can be included with what they do on our webpage. Participants in the Bureau can be asked to speak at different events. However, because the City of Mesa is a government entity, people on the list would have to participate free of charge.

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

Ms. Giese reported that at the January 9th City Council Meeting, Mayor Giles stated support for the One Community Pledge. Representatives from One Community were at the council meeting.

Dr. Byron brought up that the Board would like to know when the non-discrimination ordinance is supposed to go through. Ms. Giese will look into it and will provide an update at the next meeting.

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

Ms. Tweedy attending the swearing-in of the new Council Members at Mesa Arts Center. She also was honored to walk in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade with the other board members.

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

- (11a) The next Subcommittee meetings will be held on Thursday, February 16, 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.

Dr. Moon was looking at Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens. There was a question that asked who should be responsible for promoting greater awareness of diversity, inclusion, and tolerance in Mesa. Based on the answers, the data shows that schools were deemed to be responsible for that. Dr. Moon would like someone to reach out to Mesa Public Schools and see what they are doing to promote diversity and respond to issues throughout the school district.

Dr. Moon attended a meeting in Tempe which discussed the initiative "My Brother's Keeper". It was mentioned that the City of Mesa was involved in the initiative, however Dr. Moon was not aware of this initiative and would like to discuss it in a future Board meeting.

- (11b) The next Board meeting will be held on February 23, 2017 at 6:00PM in the Lower Level Council Chambers.
- (11c) 2017 Annual Regional Unity Walk- January 28, 2017 beginning at 5:45PM at the South Bank Amphitheater of Tempe Beach Park. Please wear teal to represent City of Mesa.

Board members are considered VIP and will have access to a special parking lot. Mayor Giles will be walking as well, and will be representing Mesa.

12. Adjournment.

Mr. Rios made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Byron seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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.