

**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
May 25, 2016 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on May 25, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Upper Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap- Chair
Cheryl Anderson- Vice
Chair
Colleen Byron
Frank Johnson
Nadia Khalighi
Robert Martinez
Cliff Moon
Martin Rios
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Talmage Pearce

STAFF PRESENT

Cmm. Anthony
Abalos
Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Kelly Gregan
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap 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 April 27, 2016 HRAB meeting.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2016 meeting. Ms. Khalighi 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 Anthony Abalos. Commander Abalos stated that he has only recently been promoted and is now working in the Central area. Dr. Byron questioned what the boundaries are for the Central district. Commander Abalos stated they were from Broadway to Tempe and McKellips to Stapley, which is roughly twelve square miles and 64,000 residents. Ms. Anderson queried what the homeless population is in that area and is it growing due to the light rail. Commander Abalos stated that his bike unit has been keeping track of the homeless population near the light rail. There have been about 300 arrests of transients that have come down to Mesa from Phoenix on the light rail, since its inception in the fall. Mr. Tompert would like to have more hard numbers regarding arrests that have been made near the downtown light rail. Commander Abalos stated that he would procure those

numbers for the Board. Ms. Anderson would like to know how many Officers that work in the Central district are CIT trained.

Mr. Villa provided the Board with the breakdown of the arrest data that they had requested. He also stated that he and Dr. Byron would be further going over the data in order to present it to the Board at the August 2016 Board meeting. He also stated that the data shows that arrests have been fairly consistent over the past few years. Dr. Byron informed the Board that she is concerned about the category headings on the data. There is Hispanic, Non-Hispanic, and Unknown, which represents the same amount of the known data. She would like to see that data broken down into more identifiable categories. Ms. Giese pointed out that it would be important for Mr. Tompert and Dr. Byron to meet with Mr. Villa over the summer to get the data into a format that the Board will be better able to understand. Mr. Villa also stated that he would bring the data analyst to the Board meeting in August 2016 in case there are additional questions. Ms. Anderson added that she wanted to compliment Mr. Villa and the MPD with all of the work that they are doing with the Mesa Youth.

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

Mr. Villa stated that there would be a Clergy Forum meeting May 26, 2016 at 11AM at Red Mountain United Methodist Church. The Mesa Police Department (MPD) will be attending that meeting and providing training regarding Human Trafficking and Exploitation. On June 2, 2016 there will be an Asian Advisory Board Meeting at Mesa Community College. He stated that there will also be an African American Advisory Board Meeting in June, but he was unsure of the specific date. He also informed the Board that Commander Abalos will be working with this Board. Also, beginning June 6, 2016 at the Public Safety Facility, the MPD will begin hosting their Youth Leadership Academy. There are currently 56 students that have been recruited from all the high schools around Mesa. They will receive a wide variety of training from various community leaders, as well as team building events. Mr. Villa informed that Board that the last group of students was a huge success. They were very responsive to the trainings and there was an 80% involvement rate with the parents, as well. The MPD will also be hosting a Basketball Night on Friday nights through July. They will be occurring at the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and the Broadway Recreation Center. Ms. Giese questioned how they marketed the basketball event and whether or not they promoted it in Spanish, as well as English. Mr. Villa assured the Board that the event was marketed in both languages. He also informed the Board that the MPD would be putting on a Rape, Aggression, Defense (RAD) course, which is a self-defense course, for kids. He was unsure on the exact dates for this event at the time.

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

(5a) Updates on organizing youth community service and diversity education projects (including the topic of bullying) with the Baha'i Community, Anti-Defamation League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Gay Lesbian Education Network.

(5a-1) Recap of the 2016 Youth Peace Building Summit that was held on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that the Summit was a success. There were less participants than anticipated, but that the sessions were more intimate and

therefore more meaningful to the students. Surveys were also distributed to the students prior to the Summit, as well as after the conclusion of the Summit. There was great feedback given about how they might improve the Summit experience. Mr. Moon stated that he and Dr. Young spoke about the graduate students who were involved in facilitating the sessions, and they agreed that the smaller groups were easier to command student involvement. They also agreed that if they wanted to increase Summit attendance in coming years, it may be better to hold it during the week, as opposed to on a weekend day. It was also discussed that Middle School students may be another option to pursue in the future. Ms. Anderson congratulated the Youth Diversity Education Committee on their efforts and the success of the Summit.

(5a-2) Organizing a mural project at Community Partners School.

Ms. Khalighi stated that this project was postponed until the coming fall, but that the Committee has collected three gift cards totaling \$75 to help gather the supplies needed for the project. They are also in contact with Habitat for Humanity to see if they can offer some supplies, as well. She also informed the Board that they will be settling on a date during their first Committee meeting in the fall.

(5a-3) Organizing additional Youth Reading Service Projects.

Ms. Khalighi stated that Community Partners would like to continue the program as a regular event and that they hope to do it twice per semester during the upcoming school year.

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

(6a) Updates on organizing a meeting and presentation regarding individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues to the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Anderson stated that she has sent an email to Sally with the Chamber regarding this item, but has yet to receive a response. She wishes to have a conversation with her regarding the role of this Board in the community and how they can possible partner on this agenda item.

(6b) 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.

Ms. Anderson informed the Board that the Committee discussed this item and was hoping to get some clarification on it or possible remove it from the agenda entirely. It was discussed having an item that leaves it open to have various speakers come and update the Committee on items that pertain to their topics. This item will be removed from future Disability Action Team agendas.

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

(7a) Updates by Dr. Byron regarding the Police Community Forums and the statistics of police activity in the community.

Mr. Tompert and Dr. Byron will meet with Mr. Villa over the summer to better summarize these reports. Mr. Villa and the data analyst will also return for the August 2016 meeting to further discuss these numbers.

(7b) Updates by Mr. Rios regarding 21st Century Policing.

Mr. Rios questioned if the staff had contacted Assistant Chief Soelberg about attending a future meeting in order to give a presentation regarding 21st Century Policing and how it pertains to the City of Mesa. Ms. Freeland stated that she had, and that Mr. Villa and Assistant Chief Soelberg will be attending meeting in August 2016 in order to give this presentation. Mr. Rios informed that Board that the Arizona Republic recently ran a story regarding Police Chiefs who are under fire for racially charged police episodes all over the country. He summarized this article for the Board.

(7c) 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 there are no current updates on this item, but that she would continue to work on it throughout the summer.

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

Ms. Giese stated that she has not heard any recent updates regarding this item. Ms. Heap stated that once the elections have commenced that the item will be replaced on the agenda. Ms. Heap suggested that the month following the elections, that the Board send a question to the Council to make sure that the Ordinance remains an open item.

9. Hear reports on conference and/or meetings attended.

Mr. Moon informed the Board that he spoke to an MPD officer who wanted him to attend a meeting regarding community policing. At the meeting he spoke about the topic of implicit biases. He told them that it has been recommended that training on the subject be given to all officers. Mr. Moon will also be attending one of the MPD Diversity Trainings to continue the talks on this subject.

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

The Board collectively formally thanked Ms. Heap for all of the work that she has done over her many years of service to the Human Relations Advisory Board. The Board also collectively thanked Mr. Johnson for his continued work on the Board for the past six years. Mr. Johnson thanked the Board, as well.

(10a) Reminder that June and July Board meetings are cancelled and the next regular Board meeting will be held on August 24, 2016.

(10b) For August meeting: Report from Mesa Police Department on 21st Century Policing.

(10c) For future meeting: Presentation regarding further efforts into Downtown Mesa Preservation through Mesa's Historic Preservation Program.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

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