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**CITY OF MESA  
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)  
December 7, 2016 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on December 7, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Tompert- Chair  
Colleen Byron  
Joseph Holmes  
Cliff Moon  
Martin Rios  
Cassandra Sampson  
Louis Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nadia Khalighi- Vice  
Chair  
Robert Martinez

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Ezcurra  
Bethany Freeland  
Kelly Gregan  
Comm. Tom Intriери  
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Bill McCallister  
Adalesa Meek

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Mr. Tompert called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

2. Items from citizens present. \*

There were no citizens present who wished to speak to the Board.

3. Approval of minutes from the September 28, 2016 HRAB meeting.

Mr. Wade made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2016 meeting. Dr. Moon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear presentation from representatives of Marc Community Resources regarding hiring and business practices for individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Tompert explained that this presentation is the result of the action item on the agenda of the Disabilities Action Team. He introduced Bill McCallister and Adelesa Meek from Marc Community Resources who will be working on the presentation to the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. McCallister began the presentation by describing how Marc helps individuals with mental disabilities obtain gainful employment. Marc works primarily with adults with behavioral health conditions or who are developmentally disabled. Ms. Meek, Clinical Director of Marc, spoke about the menu of services offered at Marc. She stated that they focus on a holistic approach to serving individuals who are differently abled. They help teach life skills such as preparing a budget, scheduling and managing doctors' appointments, and health coaching. Once the life skills aspect has been met for a patient, then they move on to addressing employment.

Mr. McCallister carried on the presentation regarding Marc's employment related services. He stated that their core objective is to get individuals out into the workforce. Mr. McCallister does this

by going out into the community and find organizations that are open to hiring these individuals. One of the examples he gave is a concessions company that allows Marc patients to run concessions at Cubs games in order to get them back into the flow of working. He states that the patients always enjoy the experience and are always very thankful. Mr. McCallister stressed that breaking down the stigma of mental disabilities is vital to getting the untapped resource of this population back into the workforce. Dr. Moon asked what the breakdown of demographics for individuals seeking services at Marc are. Mr. McCallister stated that he did not have the information currently, but that that information is kept and he can get access to it. Dr. Moon also wondered if Marc would assist with individuals who are interested in furthering their education as opposed to entering the workforce. Mr. McCallister explained that Marc would do everything in its power to connect that individuals with the right resources to help move them toward that goal. Mr. Tompert requested that Mr. McCallister send the demographic information regarding the members of Marc, to Ms. Freeland so that she can disseminate that information to the rest of the Board. Mr. Wade asked which aspects of rehabilitation are the hardest for Marc. Mr. McCallister said building the network of support out in the community is often a challenge. Marc is continually trying to reach out to organization that might be open to hiring or assisting members of their target population. Mr. Wade also asked how Marc Community Resources is funded. Mr. McCallister explained that Marc is funding from two sources. One source is the Department of the Developmentally Disabled. The second source is on the behavioral health side, which come from reimbursement from Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care. Lastly, Mr. McCallister shared a short promotional video with the Board.

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 Commander Tom Intrieri, Special Operations Commander for the Mesa Police Department. Commander Intrieri introduced himself and gave an overview of his work history with the Mesa Police Department. He also explained that his unit included SWAT and hostage negotiators. Both of which are considered at the forefront of training that is currently available across the country. He also stated that his unit handles the tactical teams, as well as some undercover work. Additionally, he works with the Violent Offender Unit which is responsible for working with the U.S. Marshals in apprehending some of the worst criminals in the country. This unit goes hand-in-hand with the Major Crimes Unit. Dr. Moon inquired as to why there has been an increase in illegal drug transportation here in Mesa. Commander Intrieri states that he believes the volume of illicit drug production has increased and easy of border crossing has increased. He also stated that as circumstances develop, so do his units. Dr. Moon also asked if Commander Intrieri thinks that Mesa Public Schools should bring back a drug education program. The Commander shared that he felt that the DARE program was a great program and that the main thing holding the department back from starting a program like this up again, is the economy and the lack of budget. Mr. Tompert asked how many organized crime groups are active in the city. Commander Intrieri stated that it is hard to say for sure because the groups are not well defined. Mr. Tompert also wondered how many gangs are active in the city. The Commander stated that there are roughly 80 identified gangs, but many of them only consist of three or less members who have moved here

from elsewhere. There are really only 7 to 10 active, street level gangs. The Board thanked Commander Intrieri for coming to speak with them.

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

Mr. Villa informed the Board that on December 14, 2016 the MPD would be having the graduation for their Making Every Student Count program which is an after-school program at Kino Junior High. He also informed the Board that the Shop With a Cop Event will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month at the Target on Longmore and Southern. There will be a total of 136 children at the event who will be able to shop for \$100 worth of merchandise. There will be a second Shop With a Cop event held on December 20, 2016 at the Walmart located at Mesa Riverview. Lastly, Mr. Villa let the Board know that Chief John Meza will be retiring at Sloan Park, near the Cubs stadium, on December 22, 2016.

Mr. Villa told the Board that recently the school resource officers have started working with local group homes. They are visiting the kids at the homes to do outreach and education during school break times such as summer and spring break.

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

This item was moved to the subsequent agenda.

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 thorough 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.

Dr. Moon explained that he was able to reach out to a group who may be interested in facilitating the Summit and that he will have more information regarding that, at a future meeting.

(6b-1) Organizing a mural project at Community Bridges school.

Dr. Moon stated that this item is currently on hold while YDET develops the Youth Peace Building Summit.

(6c-1) Organizing additional Youth Reading Service Projects.

Dr. Moon stated that this item is currently on hold while YDET develops the Youth Peace Building Summit.

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

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Mr. Tompert stated that the DAT had scheduled a day to go and witness Veteran's Court at the Mesa Municipal Court, but that the members had been unable to attend. Ms. Freeland will schedule another time for the subcommittee to take part in this. He also informed the Board that the Director of Transportation for the City of Mesa would be coming the YDET meeting in February to do the annual report on the Dial-A-Ride and Ride Share programs. Ms. Freeland stated that she confirmed with Mark Young of United Way that he would be attending the January meeting to do a discussion on the veteran's soft skills training program that they have been providing.

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

Mr. Wade made a motion to move forward with partnering with Marc Community Resources on presenting to the Chamber of Commerce on the topic of hiring practices regarding individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues. Dr. Moon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

(8a) Updates by Mr. Rios regarding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

Mr. Rios read an article entitled Policing the Future. The article highlighted new crime predicting software that could be used in the future to highlight areas of heightened crime in large cities.

(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. Freeland stated that she would send information regarding the Bureau to the new members of the Board.

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

Ms. Freeland stated that there were no current updates to this agenda item.

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

The Board members had no updates on this agenda item.

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

Mr. Tompert informed the Board that the 2017 Regional Unity Walk will be held at Tempe Beach Park.

(11a) The next subcommittee meetings will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016: 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.

Ms. Freeland stated that members of the Board had requested possibly changing the meeting times of the Subcommittees to the second Tuesday's of the month, as opposed to the third Thursday's. Dr. Moon suggested that the meeting times remain the same for now. The attending Board members agreed.

(11b) The next Board meeting will be held on January 25, 2016 at 6:00PM.

(11c) MLK Day Parade, Breakfast, and Festival- January 16, 2017.

Ms. Freeland informed the Board that the MLK Gala will be a breakfast. It will be held at the Mesa Convention Center and that the City has six tickets available to interested Board members. Mr. Tompert also informed the Board that the Diversity Office will be receiving the Veora E. Johnson Spirit of Unity Award at the MLK Breakfast Gala.

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

Attending members of the Board were in a picture that is posted on the City of Mesa's Diversity Website.

13. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

**\*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.**