
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
February 24, 2016 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on February 24, 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
Talmage Pearce
LuAnn Schmidt
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Martin Rios

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Kelly Gregan
Comm Mike Beaton
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Vice Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Anderson 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 January 27, 2016 HRAB meeting.

Ms. Heap requested an explanation of the minutes regarding item number eleven regarding the City's Anti-Discrimination ordinance. Ms. Anderson gave a recap of the minutes on this item from the previous month. Ms. Gregan further explained the outcome of the motion and Ms. Heap was satisfied. Ms. Heap made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 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 Mike Beaton to the Board. Commander Beaton has been with the department for twenty two years and stated that he has held many positions within the Mesa Police Department. He is currently the Commander at the Metro Division. His education background includes a BA from University of Arizona in Political Science and an MA in Leadership from Northern Arizona University. The Commander stated that the Metro Division is not the

same as a Patrol Division. His division is a resource for the entire Mesa Police Department. His main focuses are traffic enforcement, motorcycle patrols, marked DUI enforcement, and general traffic safety citywide. There is also an aviation unit, a holding facility, the Fusion Center, and their Homeland Security intelligence unit. Ms. Anderson thanked Commander Beaton for all that he does and Commander Beaton offered to come back anytime the Board has any questions.

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

Mr. Villa informed the Board that he only has one meeting schedule for this month so far and that is the Community Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday, March 8th at 6:00PM. The new Mesa Program class will be on March 21st. This year will be slightly different due to a new Sergeant and new Officer being involved. Mr. Villa also added that he and Dr. Byron met earlier in the week to go over the arrest data that was given to the Board at the beginning of the year. He stated that he and Dr. Byron looked over the data and that he would compile the information into a format that is easier to understand and present it to the Board at the next meeting in April.

- (4c) Discussion and updates on the Mesa Police related shooting that occurred on February 4, 2016.

Detective Amanda Stamps, the Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator, introduced herself and offered to answer any questions the Board may have had regarding mental health training within the department. Ms. Anderson queried as to how many officers are currently equipped with mental health training at this time. Det. Stamps stated there are 67 first responders that are currently trained. Dr. Byron asked who conducts the training and what it entails. Det. Stamps stated that it is a specific 48-hour training that covers de-escalation training as well as training on various specific mental health disorders. They also bring in an organization called NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) to do a presentation for the officers. There is also scenario based training covering six different scenarios that could arise in the field regarding mental illness. The training ends with a certification, so officers who are involved also attend a once-a-year refresher. Det. Stamps also offered to allow the Board members to attend a NAMI: In Your Own Voice presentation.

Det. Stamps also talked about the new Crisis Response Team (CRT) that is being put together by the Mesa Police Department (MPD). The primary goal of the CRT will be to assist on calls that require a person to be hospitalized and any other high risk calls. There will only four people assigned to this task force at this time, so it will not be a twenty four hour operation. Commander Burlingame also added that one of the main goals of the CRT team is to keep individuals out of the judicial system, if possible. She also added that they are looking to add a

holistic approach to helping individuals who may commit crimes due to their mental illnesses.

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.

Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that the YDET has their second reading session scheduled for tomorrow at the Care Partnership. There will be ten youth who will be reading books on Diversity to students who are in the after school care program there. The next event will be on April 30, 2016 which is a Youth Peace-Building Summit. This is geared toward 9th to 12th graders and they hope to have between 100 and 150 students attend the summit. They are working on finalizing the location and securing donations for breakfast and lunch. They currently have five session leaders and a key note speaker booked for the event. The keynote speaker is Colby Jeffers who is a sing/songwriter who focus on Diversity as a topic. After this event, on May 14, 2016 the YDET will be facilitating a mural painting that will also be at the Care Partnership. Ms. Anderson asked if the YDET had a flyer that could be distributed. Mr. Moon stated that they didn't want to put out a flyer until they have all of the correct information in place. Ms. Anderson thanked the YDET for all of their hard work so far this year.

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

- (6a) Overview of presentation on the monitoring of transportation services for people with disabilities including reviewing a quarterly report and annual report of East Valley Dial-A-Ride.

Ms. Schmidt informed the Board that Ms. Jodi Sorrell of Transportation came to speak with the DAT and told them that there would no longer be transfer for people taking Dial-A-Ride into Phoenix. There are some concerns regarding the cost that this change will incur, but that they are hoping the remarketing of Ride Share will help to offset that. Ms. Anderson added that these transfers can sometimes result in the rider waiting hours at a location alone and that this development is very exciting.

- (6b) 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 is going to contact someone with MARC Community Services who has a relationship with the Chamber in order to get this agenda item moving.

- (6c) 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.

There was nothing new to report on this item.

7. Discuss and take action on items presented by the Diversity and Inclusion Report Action Team.

- (7a) Updates on identifying and evaluating options for addressing the following issues from the Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Inclusion and Diversity Report.

Ms. Schmidt stated that this subcommittee is at a bit of an impasse due to Ms. Heap's inability to attend the meetings. Ms. Giese informed the Board that she spoke with Ms. Heap and updated her on current discussions. Ms. Heap stated that she is very happy to have Dr. Byron and Ms. Schmidt take another look at the recommendations, identify some that still in need of resolutions, and start working on them. She also stated that she would like Dr. Byron to help facilitate the LGBT Task Force that they had discussed.

(7a-1) Coordinating the development of a six-month long task force for the purpose of addressing issues that impact the LGBT population.

Mr. Moon questioned what sort of individuals the DIRAT is seeking for this task force. Dr. Byron said that it would be members of the communities that are directly affected by issues facing the LGBT population. This would mainly be a word of mouth campaign, but the DIRAT is open to any suggestions as to how to obtain individuals for the task force. Mr. Moon stated that he had some contacts who may be interested.

(7a-2) Coordinating the development of a six-month long task force for the purpose of addressing issues that impact the Hispanic and Latino community.

There was nothing new to report on this item.

- (7b) Raising awareness and educating the public about Dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

There was nothing new to report on this item.

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

- (8a) Updates by Dr. Byron regarding monitoring the Police Community Forums and the statistics of police activity in the community.

There was nothing new to report on this item. Ms. Anderson suggested removing the word "monitoring" from this agenda item.

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

Mr. Rios was not in attendance.

(8c) 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 has continued sending the forms and questionnaires to individuals who have shown interest in being a part of the Speaker's Bureau, but has not received any response. She also informed that Board that she intended to send the requests to any individuals who serve as panel speakers for the Indie Lens Pop-Up! Film series.

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

Vice Chair Anderson requested to move this item up on the agenda. It was discussed after the approval of the previous month's minutes. Ms. Heap stated that keeping this item on the Board's agenda shows the commitment of the Board to the matter. Mr. Pearce commented that it seemed pertinent to leave this item on the agenda at such a time that the Board has updated information or is requesting that a relevant action be made. He felt that leaving it as a standing item on the agenda would be confusing to citizens who may want to attend the Board meeting to hear updates on the item. If the item remains just as a reminder then citizens who attend may not be getting the information that the agenda suggests. Ms. Anderson added that the Board's agenda and minutes are listed the City website every month and that if the ordinance is mentioned in those documents, that it may help to spark interest. Ms. Schmidt commented that items that are listed on the agenda for multiple months at a time with no updates can become tedious, and as such, may be looked over month to month. Ms. Anderson made a motion to have this remain a standing item on the Board's regular agenda. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: seven in favor, three not in favor. The motion carried.

10. Hear update from the Diversity Director.

Ms. Giese informed the Board that this past winter the Neighborhood Outreach office partnered with the Housing Office and delivered baskets of donated items to any veterans who had received new housing vouchers for the current fiscal year. The 45 boxes contained various food, toiletry, and household items. The Diversity office has also been helping the Housing office find new ways to reach out to the Hispanic community. Ms. Giese also wanted to thank the Board for the help in procuring signatures for the City's One Mesa Pledge.

11. Hear reports on conferences and/or meeting attended.

Ms. Anderson reported that she is presenting at a church that has put together a task force to help individuals with mental health and substance abuse in Gilbert next Saturday. This is geared toward the faith-based community and bring members of the congregation together with professionals who may be able to assist them. Ms. Giese suggested that Ms. Anderson submit her name to be a part of the Speaker's Bureau. Ms. Anderson stated that she would consider that.

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

(12a) Next meeting will be held on March 23, 2016.

(12b) Indie Lens Pop-Up!: *Peace Officer* at the Dobson Ranch Library located at 2425 S. Dobson Rd.

(12c) The 2016 Phoenix Pride Parade will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2016 at 10AM.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

***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.