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

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on February 22, 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  
Joseph Holmes  
Winnie Kaplan  
Robert Martinez  
Cliff Moon  
Martin Rios  
Cassandra Sampson  
Keola Tweedy  
Louis Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland  
Ruth Giese  
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Members of Boy Scout  
Pack 53

1. Chair's Call to Order

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

2. Items from Citizens Present. \*

Mr. Ammond Boyer introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Boyer belongs to Cub Scout Pack 53 which is chartered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He informed the Board that two weeks ago he participated in a service project collecting food that was delivered to St. Mary's Food Bank. The pack also recently passed out flyers to residents of Mesa reminding them how to recycle correctly. The Board thanked the troop for all their hard work.

3. Approval of minutes from the December 7, 2016 and January 26, 2017 HRAB meetings.

Ms. Freeland informed the Board that she did not include the December 7, 2016 minutes and would have Chair Tompert approve them separately. Dr. Byron made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2017 meeting. Mr. Rios 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. Rios stated that there was an incident that occurred on February 10, 2017 at a basketball tournament taking place at Red Mountain High School. The incident began when students from an opposing school yelled racial slurs at an African American student. The school immediately acted and suspended the offending students. Mr. Rios

stated that the Mesa Police Department reached out to the school and offered to provide training to the students that would be related to the incident. Ms. Giese informed the Board that Dr. Cowan, Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools, reached out to Mayor Giles to let him know what the school's response was to the incident. She also stated that he plans to attend a future HRAB meeting to discuss their actions and to reach out for insight on how to better handle future events like this, should they occur.

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

Mr. Villa informed that Board the Commander Tony Avalos was not able to attend the meeting, but that he would reschedule for a subsequent meeting. Mr. Villa stated that there was an African American Forum meeting on February 16, 2017. He said that it was well attended. Also, on February 18, 2017 he attended a Black History Month Unity Breakfast. Mr. Villa said that February 9, 2017 there was a meeting of the East Valley Christian Leader's Alliance on Southern and Lindsey. This group was mainly made up of Hispanic Pastors of East Valley churches. He informed the Board that there will be an event called Peace Meet at the Table that is going to be sponsored by Central Christian Church at 933 N Lindsey Rd. On March 1, 2017, will be the Arizona Muslim Police Advisory Board meeting. This meeting will be of the regional Board representing the state of Arizona. This will happen at the Tempe Police Substation at 1855 E Apache Blvd. Lastly, there will be an Asian American Forum meeting on March 21, 2017 at Dobson Pediatrics in Tempe.

Mr. Villa also wanted to add that he has been working closely with Board member Kaplan. Ms. Kaplan was involved in establishing the Pal program with the police department in Los Angeles, CA and has brought great insight into the start of that program here in Mesa. Mr. Villa wanted to give a "thank you" to Board member Kaplan for all the time and effort she has put into developing that program further. Ms. Kaplan added that she has commissioned the Commander of the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) to assist the MPD as much as possible in getting this program off the ground here in Mesa.

(4c) Review of My Brother's Keeper initiative with the Mesa Police Department.

Dr. Moon stated that he had heard of Mesa's involvement in this program when he attended a meeting in Tempe. Dr. Moon also stated that he has since learned that Mesa is in fact, not involved in this program. He went on to say that it may be something that the MPD may want to consider. Mr. Villa said that he would do some research.

(4d) Updates by Dr. Byron regarding the Police Community Forums and statistics of police activity in the community.

Mr. Villa and Dr. Byron stated that they would inform the Board whenever they make more progress on this agenda item.

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

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- (5a) 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.

(5a-1) Organizing of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Peace Building Summit.

Dr. Moon informed the Board that the YDET has been hard at work putting this Summit together and that he feels they are much farther ahead in the process than they were at this same time last year. There are various schools from Mesa who will be involved this year. Each school will send 10 pre-selected students along with a chaperon or counsellor. The Arizona Republic has reached out to Dr. Moon with interest in interview a few students who participate in the Summit. He stated that he will gather the questions that the paper wishes to ask the students and himself and Ms. Giese will review them beforehand. Dr. Moon also invited any Board members who may be interested, to attend the event.

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

This item is currently on hold until the completion of agenda item 5a-1.

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

This item is currently on hold until the completion of agenda item 5a-1.

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

- (6a) Hear presentation/discussion from City of Mesa Courts regarding topics such as Veteran's Court and Rule 11 on mental competency hearings.

Dr. Byron informed the Board that representatives from the Veteran's Court came to speak to the DAT regarding the process of Veteran's Court. The Board is also invited to attend a Veteran's Court session on February 28, 2017. The first part of the process involves Veteran's being assessed for the first time. The afternoon session features Veterans who have completed or are near completing their various programs. Mr. Tompert urged Board members to attend.

Mr. Tompert also added that a similar process is now in place for individuals with mental health issues. This is now referred to as Rule 11 court.

Ms. Freeland also informed the Board that she helped facilitate a connection between Liz Morales, City of Mesa Housing Director, and Anne Gervase of the Mesa City Courts. They will be meeting to discuss how Housing First can help partner with Veteran's Court to enable homeless Veteran's going through the court to obtain housing.

- (6b) Organizing a meeting and presentation regarding individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Tompert stated that he met with Bill McCallister and that all the demographic information was disseminated to the Board members to refer to. Mr. McCallister said that the Board's next step is to meet with the Chamber to see how they would like to receive the information or to best reach out to local business'.

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 read the Board two select articles, one from the Washington Post and one from USA today. Both articles highlighted how President Trump will shape 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing and crime in America today. Mr. Tompert was in favor a remaining up-to-date on this information regarding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing so that we may address items before they become major issues.

(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 stated that she hasn't received any additional applications for this program. She will send the appropriate forms and information to new Board members for them to consider joining.

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

Mr. Tompert informed the Board that the City Attorney contacted him with information regarding this. He was told that the ordinance is not in review, but that it has been put on hold. Mayor Giles has agreed to come and speak to the Board regarding this item. Mr. Tompert asked that the draft ordinance be sent to the Board for review prior to the April meeting with Mayor Giles.

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.

Dr. Moon informed the Board of a set of results from the Mesa Opinion Survey of 2014 asking residents who they believed was responsible for teaching youth about ideas of diversity and inclusion. The top answer was parents and the second most popular answer was "schools." Dr. Moon suggestion that a representative from Mesa Public Schools could come and discuss what types of programs they currently have in place to address the issues of diversity and inclusion. Dr. Byron suggested that the Board take a more partnering approach with MPS. Ms. Tweedy wondered exactly what educational institutions would be involved in this item. It was determined that the results of the survey were ambiguous as to what types of schools, but that the school district would be a good place to start. Mr. Wade questioned whether to include the kids who reside in Mesa, but attend Gilbert schools. It was agreed that the Board should start with MPS and go from there. Dr. Byron made a motion for Dr. Byron and Dr. Moon to draft a formal letter to MPS inviting them to a future Board member to discuss the topic outlined in this agenda item. Mr. Holmes seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

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, March 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.

Ms. Freeland asked any Board member who has not yet submitted their bio for the web page, to please consider doing so. She also invited any new Board members to attend any future subcommittee meetings that might interest them.

- (11b) The next Board meeting will be held on March 22, 2017 at 6:00PM at Mesa City Plaza (20 E Main St Suite 170).

Mr. Tompert informed that Board that Ms. Khalighi has resigned her position of Vice Chair and that the Board may vote on a new Vice Chair at their next scheduled meeting.

- (11c) Open invite to Mesa Veteran's Court on February 28, 2017. Staffing will begin at 7:00AM and court will begin at 1:30PM. Location is Mesa Municipal Court, 250 E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Conference Room 301.

- (11d) Indie Lens Pop-up! Film Screening of The Bad Kids on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 2:00PM at the Mesa Public Library Main Branch.

- (11e) 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.

Ms. Giese offered to meet members at Mesa City Plaza in order to carpool to the event.

12. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03PM

**\*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.**