

**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
March 23, 2016 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on March 23, 2016
at 6:00pm in the Upper Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap- Chair
Colleen Byron
Frank Johnson
Nadia Khalighi
Cliff Moon
Martin Rios
LuAnn Schmidt
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cheryl Anderson-
Vice Chair
Robert Martinez
Talmage Pearce

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Kelly Grogan
Comm Ken Cost
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 February 24, 2016 HRAB meeting.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2016 meeting. Mr. Moon 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 Cost who has been on the force for twenty-one years. He started as a bicycle patrol Officer, then went on to the gang unit. After that he was part of the Community Action Team, has also worked street crimes. He has also been in charge of the fugitive apprehension unit, as well as the organized crime unit. He spent three years as a homicide Lt. And he has recently moved to the new Fiesta District in Mesa. The Commander also stated that he is involved in the community and loves to coach kids and serve as a mentor to them. The Fiesta District used to be Dobson and is located in a new building. It covers about sixteen square miles and 100,000 residents. The Red Mountain District used to cover a large portion of the new Fiesta District. It has changed since fall of 2015. Crime has reduced by 6% for violent crimes in comparison to the last year. The Fiesta District has a lot of multiunit housing, the largest community college, as well as Cardon Children's Medical Center and the

hospital. Mr. Moon asked if the Comm. Has ever had a chance to go to Dobson High and speak to the students. The Comm. Stated that he hasn't been there recently, but that he has intentions to go there. Ms. Heap queried as to whether or not the Commander is aware of any issues in his District that would be of any concern to this Board. He stated that he didn't think so, but that all Districts have trouble with staffing. This biggest challenge can be making sure there are officers able to cover all nine beats that are a part of the District.

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

Mr. Villa gave the Board a handout regarding a group meeting of all of the advisory boards and forums who are meeting at the i.d.e.a. museum. Chief Meza will be speaking to the group. He cordially invited all of the Board to attend. It was questioned as to who would be in attendance at the upcoming Phoenix Pride Parade. Ms. Heap asked if the fire department would be involved. Ms. Giese informed the Board that they are attending and will be bringing the historic fire truck. Mr. Villa explained that they just finished their first Aspire program for girls. At the end of the event, the girls were asked if they would prefer being involved in fire or law enforcement and a vast majority stated law enforcement. He stated that it was very well organized and that there were many volunteers who were there helping. They have just finished class number nineteen of the Mesa Program. In the beginning of June (6-10) they will be putting on their Youth Leadership Academy. Mr. Villa asked that the Board send him information on any youth they know who may be interested in being involved. This year, they were seeking CDBG funding for their Youth Athletic League. The main focus was at the Boys and Girls Club. They are still awaiting an answer on a decision. Ms. Schmidt was curious as to whether or not the City has a Safety Town program for very young children. Mr. Villa informed the Board that the City does not have anything like that, but the Red Mountain District has started working with fifth and sixth graders in a mentorship program. Ms. Schmidt wondered if there is someone she could talk to in order to discuss getting a program like that started in the City. She urged that the children learned a lot of valuable information such as water safety, bike safety, and "stranger danger." Mr. Villa asked if it is the same program that involved the building of a miniature community to teach the children about safely crossing the street. Ms. Schmidt stated that it was. Mr. Villa let the Board know that he would do some further research on the subject and get back to the Board about the possibility of such a program. Mr. Moon asked if there was any feedback on the PACT program (Police and Community Together). Mr. Villa informed the Board that when that program was introduced they put it out to the officers in the form of a power point presentation. Some of the officers seemed to have found the power point offensive and thus the program did not take off well. He stated that it seemed to make assumption regarding the police department that were not well received. Mr. Villa said that they will be rebranding the program and sending it out again to the officers.

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) Organizing of the Youth Peace Building Summit.

Ms. Khalighi explained that the date of the Peace Building Summit has been changed from April 30th to May 7th. They have a full day planned for the youth. They are currently sending out information to the youth that are attending the summit and obtaining parent signatures and photo release forms. YDET also has lunch planned in the form of food trucks that the youth will have to purchase or they may opt to bring a sack lunch. There will be an evaluation included in the Summit packet. Mr. Moon added that the YDET should hear back by March 31st as to exactly how many students will be attending. Mr. Moon queried as to whether they could ask the youth to sign the One Mesa Pledge. Ms. Giese stated that it is important to discuss at the Summit. The Diversity office will also have available signage and a sign-up sheets so that the youth may share the information with their families. Ms. Heap questioned whether or not the YDET had the financial means to put this Summit on. Mr. Moon stated that they have passed out the fundraising sheets and have not had a response. He asked if any of the Board members may be able to make a financial contribution. Ms. Khalighi added that the Board is hoping for a minimum amount of donations in the sum of \$500. Mr. Moon has also contacted the MLK committee about using their services as non-profit in order to help facilitate using any donated monies.

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

Ms. Heap asked about the possible mural project. Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that the donations sheets that they are handing out included literature about the mural project and the need for donated paint. The mural project has also been pushed back to the fall in order to better focus on the Peace Building Summit.

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

Ms. Heap asked for an update on the Youth Reading Projects. Ms. Khalighi explained that they have already held two reading events that were both extremely successful. Ms. Khalighi also personally thanked the YDET members for all of their efforts this year working on these various projects.

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.

Mr. Tompert informed the Board that Ms. Anderson will be contacting Sally of the Chamber through Norm of MARC centers in order to get an answer regarding this 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.

There were no updates regarding this item.

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

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

This item has been moved to the upcoming meeting so that Dr. Byron can give her updates in person.

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

Mr. Rios informed the Board that he attended the Police Community Partnership meeting on January 27, 2016. There were 32 Community Leaders who attended the meeting hosted by Chief Gordon. The agenda was an overview of the use of force, biased based policing, and the quarterly risk management statistics. He stated that it was a very productive meeting. On March 16, 2016, Mr. Rios had the opportunity to meet with Lt. Quesada of the Mesa Police Department and they shared information about community activities. Lt. Quesada is currently the Supervisor for Human Resources and Community Outreach. The Mesa Police Department is also planning to give some community members the chance to attend a firearm training and information event. The event is a simulated firearms training scenario that helps officers to be able to better analyze certain situations and potential threats in order to be able to respond appropriately.

- (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.

There were no updates regarding this item.

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

Ms. Heap asked if there were any updates regarding this. Ms. Giese stated that she hasn't heard any discussion regarding the ordinance.

9. Hear updates and discuss recommending the creation of a Mesa Police Review Board.

Ms. Heap informed the Board that she requested this agenda item. She stated that there have been a number of police involved deaths in recent months. She would like to have a Police Review Board established in order to examine the actions of the Police Department in the name of transparency. Mr. Tompert suggested that this be a separate ad hoc committee that can analyze this data. Mr. Tompert made a motion to establish a new subcommittee that he would be willing to act as Chair upon. Ms. Khalighi seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no updates regarding this item.

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

(11a) Next meeting will be held on April 27, 2016.

(11b) Indie Lens Pop-Up!: *Peace Officer* at the Dobson Ranch Library located at 2425 S. Dobson Rd.

(12b-1) An additional screening has been added at the Volstead Public House located at 105 W Main St on April 28, 2016 at 7PM.

(11c) The 2016 Phoenix Pride Parade will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2016 at 10AM.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

***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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