
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
October 25, 2017 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on October 25, 2017 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level City Council Chambers at 57 E 1st St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Moon- Chair
Colleen Byron- Vice Chair
Cassandra Sampson
Mark Tompert
Keola Tweedy
Louis Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Holmes
Winnie Kaplan
Nadia Khalighi
Robert Martinez
Silvia Stanford

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Kelly Gregan
D3 Councilmember
Francisco Heredia
Natalie Lewis
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order'

Dr. Moon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

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

3. Approval of minutes from the September 27, 2017 Board meeting.

Dr. Byron made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2017 Board meeting. Mr. Tompert seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear introduction of District 3 Councilmember, Francisco Heredia.

Councilmember Heredia introduced himself to the Board and gave a brief overview of his past work. He stated that he is a native Arizonan who attend Arizona State University. His experience is mainly with non-profit organizations. Ms. Tweedy asked what Councilmember Heredia's passion was when he was growing up. He stated that being a public servant, mainly grass-roots community work, has always been a goal of his. Dr. Moon asked that if CM Heredia have any questions regarding social justice issues, that he please come to the Board for collaboration.

5. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department Monthly Community Engagement Report.

(5a) Updates on Diversity related police incidents and activities.

Mr. Villa informed the Board that himself and Dr. Byron met to discuss the arrest data statistics that the Board has asked for. He stated that he has found a way to better provide the information results that are being requested. He provided the Board with handouts breaking down the information by both percentage and numbers. Ms. Tweedy asked Mr. Villa where an individual who is multi-racial would fall within the data sets. He stated under "other," but it is determined by the information that the individual provides during processing. Mr. Villa also stated that the information is available on the Mesa Police Department website. Dr. Moon asked that the Board look over the information and come prepared to the next meeting with any questions they may have. He also asked that Mr. Villa find a way to further break down the information to include gender and age to better identify any areas of concern.

Ms. Tweedy asked for an update on the recent Coffee with a Cop event. Mr. Villa stated that the event had a great turnout at all three locations where it was held.

Mr. Villa informed the Board that the Mesa Police Department received a score of 100% on the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) 2017 Municipal Equality Index (MEI) score.

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

- 10/28/17 Latino Town Hall at the Mesa Arts Center from 7-12PM
 - 11/07/17 Youth Forum at the Communications Center at 6PM
 - 11/08/17 Know Your Rights Event at Longfellow Elementary from 6-8PM
- Dr. Moon wondered what kind of outreach was being done to promote this event. Mr. Villa stated that they are looking to canvas the neighborhood directly surrounding the school, as well as promoting on the Police Department web page and social media channels. Dr. Moon also asked for Mr. Villa to share any quantitative or qualitative data collected from that event. Ms. Sampson asked if there were efforts to instill to youth a sense of safety regarding law enforcement, as opposed to fear. Mr. Villa stated that all youth resource officers are required to do 180 hours of sensitivity training.
- 11/16/17 African American Forum at New Beginnings Church from 6-8PM
 - 11/16/17 Boys & Girls Club Thanksgiving Dinner at Guerrero Park

6. Discuss 2017 Municipal Equality Index score.

Dr. Moon asked how the data determining the score is acquired. Ms. Giese stated that the HRC does an initial assessment of the scoring parameters and then the City has a chance to submit changes. Some of the points are also acquired through county or state laws. Ms. Tweedy asked for clarification on the item that reads: City provides services to the Transgender community. Ms. Giese stated that the HRC is looking to highlight that specific community in this year's assessment. Ms. Sampson asked how the HRC assesses the portion of the score that asks about City government leadership public position on LGBTQ issues. Ms. Giese said that they may look at press releases or proclamations to determine public messaging regarding that specific item. Dr. Byron asked if the Mayor plans to make a public statement regarding the City's score. Ms. Giese stated that the Mayor is aware of the score, but she does not know if he will make a public statement. Mr. Tompert made note of the amount of points that are lost due to the lack of a non-

discrimination ordinance. The Board wondered how Mesa compares to other cities in Arizona. Ms. Giese stated that both Phoenix and Tempe received scores of 100, but that Chandler, Gilbert, and Scottsdale were all around the same score margin as Mesa. Dr. Byron asked that the Board be provided with the scores of other local cities at the next Board meeting. This item will remain on the agenda for the December Board meeting.

7. Review, discuss, and approve 2017-19 HRAB Strategic Plan.

Dr. Moon asked that Ms. Freeland disperse the potential goal statements to the Board via email so that they can have a chance to review them before the December meeting. Regarding the item highlighting topics of diversity, inclusion, and equity within Mesa schools, Ms. Freeland will draft a letter that will be sent to various educators and educational institutions inviting them to share their efforts in addressing these topics. Ms. Freeland will also contact Mesa Public Schools to obtain several potential dates for the 3rd Annual Youth Peace Building Summit. Dr. Moon and Ms. Freeland will collaborate to update the Board website to include more content and highlight their activity in the community. Regarding the Strategic Plan, Dr. Moon discussed the importance of creating signature events that are associate with the City of Mesa. It was also noted that all Board activity will need to measured and quantitative or qualitative data be shared with Mayor and Council on a regular basis. The Board suggested leaning towards the working meeting model, as opposed to subcommittees. These working meetings would include hearing progress made on agenda items, planning next steps, and sharing of individual resources to help achieve the goals outlined in the accepted Strategic Plan.

Dr. Moon requested that each member of the Board, even members who were not present at this meeting, come prepared to discuss the individual items in the draft Strategic Plan. This discussion will include deciding which items will remain a part of the plan. Each Board member should also be willing to volunteer to be a project lead on one or more of the Strategic Plan items. It has been requested that each Board member, as part of the new Strategic Plan, come prepared to be actively involved in multiple Strategic Plan items.

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

Keola Tweedy:

- 09/28/17 Milan Ross book signing & launch party at the Nile Theater.
- 09/29/17 Zen Nights Block Party in Downtown Mesa
- 10/04/17 Coffee With a Cop at Whataburger (SWC of Broadway/Lindsay)
- 10/04/17 American Association of University Women (AAUW) Meeting- East Mesa Branch
- 10/04/17 Easy Valley Business Expo at Mesa Convention Center
- 10/05/17 Mesa Artspace Lofts info session #1 at Mesa Arts Center
- 10/06/17 Motorcycles on Main in Downtown Mesa
- 10/14/17 Lau Kanaka No Hawaii (LKNH) General Meeting
- 10/20/17 Baha'i Celebration at Poston Jr. High School

Dr. Byron and Ms. Khalighi were also in attendance at the Baha'i Celebration at Poston Jr. High School. Ms. Sampson attended a meeting of the Bikers Against Child Abuse East Valley Chapter.

She said that in that meeting it was discussed the lack of diversity within the group and how they are really seeking to include more individuals of all different backgrounds. This helps the children better identify with whomever wants to help them. Ms. Sampson felt that this was directly related to human rights and diversity issues. Dr. Byron agreed and suggested that all members of the Board share this kind of information with their own personal contacts.

Dr. Moon informed the Board that he met with the Mesa Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Celebration Committee after they and the Mayor discussed the upcoming MLK Day events. He said that the events are still in question, as there are not currently enough funds to move forward. Ms. Giese stated that the Mayor and the City value the parade and are willing to do what is necessary to help that move forward. The Mayor also indicated that some more funds may be allocated, but that he would like the committee to evaluate their funds and the necessity for each aspect of the events (breakfast, parade, and festival). Regardless, there will be some kind of event held on MLK Jr. Day.

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

- (9a) Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 in the Upper Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).
- (9b) Veteran's Day Parade and Music Festival beginning at 11AM in downtown Mesa (Map provided).
- (9c) 15th Annual Latino Town Hall will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at the Mesa Arts Center (1 E Main St) from 7AM to 12PM.
- (9d) Next Regional Human Relations Commission meeting will be held in early 2018.

Ms. Tweedy informed the Board that on 11/11/17 there will also be a Lau Kanaka No Hawaii Craft Fair event in Phoenix at United Methodist Church. It is free and open to the public.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43PM.

***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.**

The City of Mesa is committed to making its public meetings accessible. For accommodations, translation, or additional information, please contact the City of Mesa Diversity Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at (480) 644-5432 or AzRelay 7-1-1 for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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