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**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**April 27, 2016 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on April 27, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Upper Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cheryl Anderson- Vice  
Chair  
Colleen Byron  
Frank Johnson  
Nadia Khalighi  
Robert Martinez  
Talmage Pearce  
Martin Rios  
LuAnn Schmidt  
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Denise Heap- Chair  
Cliff Moon

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland  
Ruth Giese  
Kelly Gregan  
Cr. Harold Rankin  
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 March 23, 2016 HRAB meeting.

Ms. Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2016 meeting. Dr. Byron 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 the Board to Commander Harold Rankin. Commander Rankin has been with the Mesa Police Department (MPD) for twenty years this year. He was on the west side during his time on patrol. He explained to the Board that in neighborhoods that have a lot of multi-family housing, problems tend to persist due to the fact that the tenants are constantly cycling out. He has also enjoyed being able to train other officers who share his enthusiasm for law enforcement. When he was promoted to Lieutenant he held a lot of different jobs that helped him get a new perspective on the different aspects involved in maintaining a quality level of service to the citizens of Mesa. He stated that one of those aspects has been customer service. He gave an example of the recent fire in Gilbert. The fire was so intense that it melted the fiber optics limiting the

town's abilities to answer 9-1-1 calls. The City of Mesa stepped up and helped to mitigate that issue and take the calls for the Town of Gilbert while they repaired the lines.

Commander Rankin helped to evaluate the need for body cameras on working officers. He further explained that this resulted in a significant decrease in officer related complaints. Every officer currently wears an on-body camera in the name of transparency to the general public. He is also the Professional Services Volunteer Commander. This involves helping to develop important policies. Procedural policies help to implement consistent actions when it comes to the officers interacting with the public. Peer Support, also known as Officer Wellness, is used to provide a wide range of services to the City's officers so that they are best equipped to serve the needs of the community. This involves things such as PTSD counselling, grief counselling, and keeping mental fortitude. Mr. Rios questioned whether or not the City applied for the grant related to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing in regards to the body cameras. Commander Rankin informed the Board that because the City was ahead of the curve on implementing the cameras, they were unable to apply for any grant monies. Mr. Martinez asked what kind of preventative ideas the City might be developing for future use? The Commander stated that one of the City's main issues is transparency and that they will be striving toward that. He also stressed that it is imperative that residents feel safe in their community. He also stated that it is actually easier to work with more well established neighborhoods to improve the quality of life for their residents because they have a real vested interest in the neighborhood.

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

Mr. Villa stated that this past Saturday he was involved in a community event. The event provided clothes for the homeless, book for kids, and hotdogs for all of the attendees. He also mentioned that on April 7, 2016 the Chief met with all of the Advisory Boards at the i.d.e.a Museum regarding current programs. There were about forty individuals in attendance. He invited any attendees that wanted to be more educated on scenarios that officers are faced with in the line of duty. Some of the members were allowed to engage in a training program called MILO (Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives). Mr. Villa invited the Board to attend the Citizen Academy to experience MILO.

The next Asian Advisory Board Meeting is on May 24, 2016 at Dobson Pediatrics. There will be a Youth Leadership Academy from June 6, 2016 to June 10, 2016. The MPD is currently accepting applications for the program. Ms. Anderson asked if anyone has come to talk to the children about mental health issues? Mr. Villa stated that he would check the schedule and get back to Ms. Anderson.

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 gave the Board an update regarding the upcoming Youth Peace Building Conference that will be on May 7, 2016. The Committee members will arrive at 7:30am at Wilkes University. She also stated that they had received donations from Safeway and Wal-Mart for food and snacks for the Summit.

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

Ms. Khalighi stated that the Committee had received four gift cards from Home Depot for the upcoming mural project in the fall.

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

Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that Care Partnership would be holding a fundraiser on the upcoming Saturday and wanted to ask the Board to lend their support since they have a great relationship with this particular organization.

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

- (6a) Updates by Dr. Byron regarding monitoring the Police Community Forums and the statistics of police activity in the community.

Dr. Byron asked if this section could be moved forward in the agenda so that Mr. Villa may participate in the discussion. Mr. Villa informed the Board that he has the statistics that were put together by his analyst, but that he didn't have them with him. He promised that he would email the information to Ms. Freeland who would then distribute it to the Board.

- (6b) Updates by Mr. Rios regarding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

Mr. Rios informed the Board that earlier that day he had attended the Gilbert Police Department Partnership Committee meeting. The committee is used as a forum to unite the community and the department. It helps to strengthen relationships, formulate policies, and engage the public with the police department in order to reduce crime. On April 20, 2016 the MPD gave twenty community members the opportunity to be involved in a training at the range facility. Mr. Rios stated that he attended that event and that it was very informative and engaging. Assistant Chief Soelberg offered to come and speak to the Board about 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing and how it relates to the City of Mesa. The Board agreed that it would be a beneficial presentation. Ms. Freeland will arrange the presentation for an upcoming Board meeting.

- (6c) 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 current updates to this agenda item.

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

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Ms. Giese informed the Board that an article was released from the Arizona Republic outlining the current status of the ordinance. It stated that the City plans to bring back talks of the ordinance around the fall.

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

Mr. Tompert put together information from other various police review boards across the state and the country. He asked that the Diversity office scan the information and send it to the rest of the Board so that they may have a more robust conversation regarding the creation of the Police Review Board. Mr. Tompert questioned the rest of the Board as to what they hoped to accomplish with the proposed advisory board. He felt that there were several steps that should be taken before the Board moves forward with the creation or recommendation of such a board. Ms. Gregan informed the Board that there is a Use of Force Board that examines the results of certain actions taken by the Police Department. The board includes three sworn officers, as well as citizens. She also informed the Board that their charter prohibits the development of a Police Advisory Board. The Board would like a list of all of the active committees and groups in the City that may have a hand in evaluating situations pertaining to this.

9. Discuss and take action on the recommendation to support more future efforts into downtown Mesa preservation through Mesa's Historic Preservation Program.

Ms. Schmidt recently toured a historic site within Mesa with her leadership group. She learned that lack of funding prevents more efforts in historic preservation of Downtown Mesa. She would like the Board to work on a letter to Council asking if more funds can be allocated from the City for this purpose. Dr. Byron would like this member of the Historic Preservation Board that Ms. Schmidt spoke with to come and speak to the rest of the Board regarding specific Mesa landmarks that pertain to Diversity. Mr. Pearce added that the request would need to fall under the umbrella of the Board's mission statement. Ms. Schmidt will send the contact information to Ms. Giese so that the Board may invite this gentleman to speak to the Board on this topic.

10. Discuss and take action on the request to support Haitian Flag Day event on May 21, 2016.

Ms. Giese explained that she received an invitation from an individual who is putting together an event that is aimed at commemorating Haitian Flag Day. The event will also focus on the discussion of other topics including cultural identity. She explained further that it would be a great opportunity for any of the Board members to gain a better understanding of our local Haitian community, as the organizer actually resides in Mesa. The event will be held at Mesa Community College on Southern and Dobson from 6pm to 8pm. Ms. Giese asked for the general support of the Board. Dr. Byron made a motion to give the support of the Board to the Haitian Flag Day event being held on Saturday, May 21, 2016. Ms. Schmidt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Discuss and approve the cancellation of the June and July Board meetings.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the cancellation of the June and July 2016 Board meetings. Ms. Anderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Discuss and vote on the selection of the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2016-17 Board year.

Mr. Pearce made a motion to make Mr. Tompert the Chair for the 2016-17 Board year. Ms. Anderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Anderson made a motion to make Ms. Khalighi the Vice-Chair for the 2016-17 Board year. Mr. Tompert seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Anderson informed the Board the May is Mental Health Awareness Month in the United States. Mayor Giles will be attending an event that is being hosted by Marc Community Resources and Ms. Anderson has personally invited every member of the Board to the event via e-mail. The event begins at 9am and will last about forty minutes.

Ms. Khalighi formally invited the entire Board to attend the Youth Peace-Building Summit on May 7, 2016 at 8:30am.

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

(14a) Next meeting will be held on May 25, 2016.

(14b) Indie Lens Pop-Up! Screening at the Volstead Public House located at 105 W Main St on April 28, 2016 at 7pm.

(14c) Reminder that the Board will hold a regular meeting on August 24, 2016.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

**\*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.**