
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
September 27, 2023 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on September 27, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams, Chair
Christiana Hammond, Vice Chair
Nina Allred
Brett Caldwell
Sabrina Dobson
Abram Ellsworth
Rochelle Johns
Yudit Nonthe Sanchez
Oscar White

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mahmoud Riyah
William Campos

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Elisha Gutierrez
Mini Salas
Tara Hall
Rachel Claffey

GUESTS

1. Vice Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Hammond, acting in the role of Chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

William Campos and Mahmoud Riyah were announced as excused absences for this meeting.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the August 23, 2023 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Dobson that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Allred, Mr. Caldwell, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Johns, Ms. Nonthe Sanchez, and Mr. White.

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss a presentation from the Mesa Police Department Community Engagement Division on upcoming programs and events.

Tara Hall and Mini Salas from the Mesa Police Department's Community Relations and Recruitment Division provided a presentation to the HRAB regarding their community programs. Ms. Hall provided an overview of the Mesa Police Department's engagement efforts, leadership series, community programs, and recruitment efforts. She invited HRAB to attend the upcoming SPARC basketball tournament the upcoming week.

Ms. Salas gave an overview of the G.A.I.N. 25th anniversary event occurring in October in Mesa. She went over details regarding their engagement, marketing, event planning, and outreach. She also touched on the goals for the event and their collaboration with the community. Ms. Hall provided details regarding their partnership with Mesa Public Schools with current youth programs at their facilities. She concluded the presentation by summarizing their current recruitment efforts, and events. Ms. Hall and Ms. Salas answered questions and provided responses to feedback provided by HRAB surrounding recruitment and youth engagement.

5. Hear, discuss, and provide direction on the draft 2023-2025 HRAB Strategic Plan.

Ms. Alicoate, Director of Diversity & Engagement, provided an overview of the input HRAB had given in the last board meeting towards the 2023-2025 HRAB Strategic Plan. She reviewed the updated version of the work plan and goals. Ms. Alicoate concluded the presentation by informing HRAB of the importance of measuring and tracking progress to show their accomplishments and impact. The 2023-2025 HRAB Strategic Plan is currently in draft form and more discussion will occur at the next meeting.

6. Hear an update on upcoming diverse community events and ways to be involved in City events and activities.

Ms. Alicoate provided a presentation to the HRAB regarding the upcoming diverse community events. She provided a list of some long-standing Citywide events along with other ways to get involved from October 2023 to January 2024.

7. Discuss and take action on the cancellation or rescheduling of the following Board meetings:

(7a) Rescheduling of November 22, 2023 Board meeting.

It was moved by Ms. Allred and seconded by Mr. White that the above-mentioned meeting be rescheduled to November 29, 2023.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Allred, Mr. Caldwell, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Johns, Ms. Nonthe Sanchez, and Mr. White.

NAYS- None

(7b) Cancellation of December 27, 2023 Board meeting.

It was moved by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Hammond that the above-mentioned meeting be rescheduled to a virtual meeting on December 20, 2023.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Allred, Mr. Caldwell, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Johns, Ms. Nonthe Sanchez, and Mr. White.

NAYS- None

8. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- (8a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on October 25, 2023 at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

Ms. Hammond went over the details of the next meeting.

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

Mr. Ellsworth reported he attended the Share Your Roots event with the Mesa Police Department. He also attended a meeting with ASU and the Council of Religious Advisors.

Ms. Nonthe-Sanchez attended the Global to Local: Workforce Trends That Will Shape Arizona as well as the Taking the Pentagon to the People event at Arizona State University.

Ms. Allred reported that earlier in the month she volunteered at the i.d.e.a Museum and attended two SPARC event meetings. She also attended a planning meeting for a Latino student conference, attended a Mesa Public Schools Equity Advisory Council and she attended the Mesa Prevention Alliance monthly meeting. She attended weekly meetings with the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, volunteered and attended their annual Gala, and helping with the multi-cultural fair that will be coming up in December. She also hosted a career fair in partnership with the LDS Welcome Center.

Ms. Dobson participated in the 9/11 Day of Service.

Mr. Caldwell reported that he attended an LGBTQ+ Out and Equal Workplace Summit in Orlando, FL.

Mr. White reported he attended an Art in the Park meeting. He also promoted volunteerism at the Celebration of Freedom event in July.

Mr. Williams attended the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington D.C. and met with Senator Kyrsten Sinema, Senator Mark Kelly, and Congressman Ruben Gallego.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,
Director of Diversity & Engagement