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**CITY OF MESA  
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)  
October 27, 2021 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on October 27, 2021 at 6:00pm via ZOOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams- Chair  
Tom Brennan  
William Campos  
Joseph Holmes  
Christiana Hammond  
Bill McAllister  
Yudit Nonthe Sanchez  
Jared Smith – Vice Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

Margaret Duarte  
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate  
Judge John Tatz

GUESTS

Keisha McKinnor

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Mr. Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Ms. Duarte and Ms. Faatoafe were announced as excused absences.

2. Items from Citizens Present.

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the September 22, 2021 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Mr. McAllister, seconded by Mr. Brennan that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Campos, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Hammond, Mr. McAllister, Ms. Nonthe Sanchez.

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss presentation from Mesa City Court's Presiding Magistrate on the State of the Court and updates on Community Court.

Presiding Magistrate, Judge John Tatz, reported on the state of the Mesa Municipal Court. Judge Tatz stated they are recruiting for new magistrate after retirement of Judge Valerye Boyer-Wells. Employee satisfaction survey in August showed 78% of court employees believe morale has significantly improved in the last six months. The court has completed 19+ jury trials to verdict since

April 2021. They also obtained grant funding to tint the windows which addresses security concerns and contributes to the City's Climate Action Plan

Judge Tatz shared some upcoming features such as February 2022 launch of Chatbot. This will provide customers with answers to frequently asked questions and eliminate wait times, improve citizen interaction, and free up Customer Service Agents to complete other tasks. They will also launch payment kiosks for convenient access for the public to make cash payments outside of business hours.

Judge Tatz shared metrics related to Community Court. Starting in January 2021 they added two additional Community Court dockets per month and will be increasing to three per month in 2022. Community Court recognizes unique challenges faced by those who also have serious mental health issues and works directly with assigned clinics and case managers. The board asked questions related to technical features of the Community Court and Judge Tatz responded.

Judge Tatz informed on a new Court that will address domestic violence cases (name to be determined). Staff attended a training put on by Tucson Domestic Violence Court team and they held a kickoff meeting related to implementation of such a court in Mesa. The board members thanked Judge Tatz for his time and presentation.

5. Hear and discuss an update from the Mesa-East Valley MLK Celebration Committee on upcoming events and programs.

Mesa-East Valley MLK Celebration Committee Chair Keisha McKinnor provided an updated on the committee's upcoming activities. They are looking for enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about preserving the legacy of Dr. King to join the board of directors. The Committee will be hosting an Open House on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm for interested candidates to learn more.

Additionally, the Mesa-East Valley MLK Celebration Committee will be partnering with the City again to host the annual parade and festival in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 17, 2022 starting at 10am. The theme will be 'Tomorrow is Today' based on Dr. King Jr's vision and message for community. Similar to past years, there will be many ways for HRAB members to volunteer and/or participate in the activities of the day. Ms. McKinnor shared that they will also have a new element for children to submit art, poetry, writings based on 'peace' and selected winners will be on display at the festival. As a school principal, Mr. Brennen expressed interest in participating.

6. Hear and discuss a presentation on Aira, an on-demand visual interpretation service for visitors and residents of Mesa.

Ms. Alicoate shared that Visit Mesa has partnered with Aira, a new accessibility technology that serves people who are blind or have low vision. Prior to arrival, visitors can download the Aira app to their smart phone and get access to a trained Aira agent who can assist with trip planning. While in Mesa's city limits, visitors can access the agent to guide them throughout public buildings, attractions, restaurants, hotels and more. Customers of Aira are referred to as Explorers and this instant access to visual information at the touch of a button will enhance everyday efficiency, engagement, and independence.

Aira is one of several initiatives Visit Mesa is implementing to ensure all visitors are welcomed and travel to Mesa is enjoyable. Visit Mesa established the Mesa Regional Foundation for Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion to enhance and implement equity, diversity and inclusion for youth and adults

within the Mesa community. The Foundation will support programs that expand upon accessibility throughout Mesa with a special emphasis on technology.

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

(7a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on November 17, 2021 at 6pm via ZOOM to be later announced.

(7b) 2021 Pride Parade to be held on Saturday, November 6, 2021 beginning at 3rd St and Thomas. Parade step off begins at 10AM.

Ms. Alicoate provided some details to the Pride Parade event and brief update on the future planning of the Community Learning Series.

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

Mr. McAllister spoke to the One Community Spotlight on Success Local Heroes Award Luncheon that he attended with Mr. Williams, Mr. Smith, Ms. Duarte, Ms. Hammond, and Ms. Nonthe Sanchez.

Mr. Brennan advised that he attended a meeting where it was announced that Arizona State University Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College and Mesa Public Schools won an \$8.2 million grant over the next three years from the Department of Education. Ms. Nonthe Sanchez reported on the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Mr. Williams advised of his attendance at the following meetings and events: September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting with Councilmember Freeman as Chair of HRAB; September 24<sup>th</sup> Mesa Regional Foundation for Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion; September 27<sup>th</sup> Bridge Forum for Young Community Leaders; September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with Councilmember Spilsbury as Chair of HRAB; October 12<sup>th</sup> Mesa Temple Tour and Visit Mesa Tour; October 15<sup>th</sup> AZ Veterans Hall of Fame; October 19<sup>th</sup> Zion Institute and AZ MLK Lifetime Achievement Award selection; October 21<sup>st</sup> Visit Mesa.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08PM

**\*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.**

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,  
Diversity & Special Projects Manager