

**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Wednesday, October 23, 2024 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on October 23, 2024
at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christiana Hammond, Chair
Nina Allred, Vice Chair
William Campos
Sabrina Dobson
Abram Ellsworth
Mary Redwing
Perla Sandberg
Oscar White
Jane Williams-Cooper

MEMBERS ABSENT

Yudit Nonthe Sanchez
Rochelle Johns

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Elisha Gutierrez
Blaine Waters

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Hammond called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Yudit Nonthe Sanchez was announced as an excused absence for this meeting.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the September 25, 2024 HRAB meeting.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Ms. Hammond, Ms. Allred, Mr. Campos, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Redwing, Ms. Sandberg, Mr. White, Ms. Williams-Cooper

NAYS – None

4. Hear, and discuss a presentation from the Mesa Police Department's Mental Health Support Team on the City of Mesa's crisis response efforts and support services.

Sergeant Waters of the Mesa Police Department provided a presentation to HRAB regarding the City's Mental Health Response which encompasses the internal Mental Health Support Team and community partnerships with Solari, La Frontera EMPACT-SPC, Community Bridges, Crisis Preparation and Recovery. He shared nationwide and local statistics surrounding mental health. Along with the Mesa Police Department calls for services from 2016 to 2023, which included categories for suicide, mental health detainers, overall mental health-related, and total calls for service.

Sgt. Waters shared that the City collaborates with mental health providers to reduce the number of Emergency Mental Health related calls for services. The response has three parts: 911 Mental Health Call Transfers, the City of Mesa Mobile Crisis Team, and the Police Department Mental Health Support Team. With this triaging system and the utilization of the resources available through MPD's community partners, there has been a reduction in total calls for dispatched officers. The calls are being relayed to the Solari Crisis Center from dispatched emergency services, with an average of 300 calls per month, and offer mental health clinician support.

Sgt. Waters outlined the Mental Health Support Team which was established in 2016. He reviewed their co-responder model which provides a clinical first responder as a resource for individuals requiring mental health services. Their goal is to reduce calls for services by offering solutions to individuals who have a history of mental health. He explained the Crisis Intervention Training available to officers, an innovative, first responder model of police-based crisis intervention with community, health care, and advocacy partnerships at its core. This training provides tools for officers to recognize a mental illness and/or crisis. He also provided details on the Court Ordered Treatment program which provides mental health services to participants while going through the criminal justice system. This program is done in collaboration between the Mesa City Court and community partners. It provides an opportunity to receive mental health services while ensuring accountability in the criminal justice system. As well as avoiding further contact with the justice system and living a more productive life.

Upon concluding the presentation, Sgt. Waters answered questions and responded to feedback provided by HRAB.

5. Hear and discuss a presentation on the renaming of Mesa Grande Cultural Park.

Ms. Andrea Alicoate, Assistant to the City Manager, presented to HRAB details on the upcoming Mesa Grande Cultural Park renaming event taking place on November 4th, 2024. The area will be renamed to Sce:daḡi Mu:val Va'aki to reflect the rich cultural history of the site, holding significance to those inhabiting the land in the past. In the O'odham language, it means "Blue Fly's place of dwelling" or "Blue Fly's house." Sce:daḡi Mu:val Va'aki, pronounced "CHUH-dag MOO-vahl VAH-kee", comes from a series of songs originating from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Gila River Indian Community. This process is a continuing effort of collaboration between the City and members of the indigenous tribes in the area to preserve their history.

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

(6a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on December 4, 2024 at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

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

Mr. Ellsworth attended ONE Community Local Heroes Spotlight.

Ms. Allred attended the Celebrate Mesa event and Adelante Y Éxito Gala held by the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Redwing attended the Special Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Ms. Williams-Cooper volunteered with the Arizona Athletic and Arizona Soccer Association.

Ms. Dobson attended the Domestic Violence Awareness Event and the Mesa Police Community Engagement Campaign.

Ms. Sandberg attended the Mesa Dia de Los Muertos event.

Mr. White attended the Celebrate Mesa and the Domestic Violence Awareness Event.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicocate,
Assistant to the City Manager