
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
December 2, 2020 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on December 2, 2020 at 6:00pm via ZOOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams- Chair
Tom Brennan
William Campos
Margaret Duarte
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe
Joseph Holmes
Jared Smith- Vice-Chair
Lou Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Colleen Byron
Bill McAllister

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Cisco Luzania
Tara Hall
Mini Salas
Neelam Shah

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Mr. Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

There were no excused absences.

2. Items from Citizens Present.

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the October 28, 2020 HRAB meeting.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Campos, Ms. Duarte, Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wade.

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss a presentation from the Makarios Youth Prevention Project regarding their work to address children's needs to prevent them from entering the criminal justice system.

The representative from Makarios, Frantz Beasley, was unable to make the presentation due to a personal matter. Mr. Williams requested Mr. Campos to get information from presenter that can be shared to board instead.

5. Hear and discuss update from the Mesa Police Department:

- Police cases and trends within the community as it relates to diversity.

Ms. Tara Hall, Mesa Police Community Engagement Administrator, was present to introduce the members of her team: Mini Salas, Police Community Engagement Coordinator and Neelam Shah, Intern. Ms. Salas reiterated the Police Chief's commitment to promoting cultural diversity and awareness within the department and community. The Mesa Police Department's Diversity & Inclusion team recently met to provide updates and introductions. Additionally, they have conducted community service project as well as having one of their members sing the national anthem at the Steven Pollard Memorial Run. The D&I team also participated in an event that assisted with laying of pavers at a veteran's memorial event.

Ms. Hall spoke about the efforts in encouraging more female leadership within the department. She also spoke about the department's Transparency in Policing initiative and pertinent data points that are posted on their website.

- Update on police community forums and other community engagement initiatives.

Mr. Williams provided Ms. Hall with his appreciation on behalf of the board for the Mesa Police Department continuing their commitment of engaging with the community and finding additional ways to support diversity within the department.

6. Hear and discuss update on Regional and City diversity celebrations in January and February.

Ms. Alicoate provided a brief update on annual diversity celebrations held in January as they will be taking a different vision in 2021 to promote the health and safety of our community at this time.

In lieu of a physical East Valley parade and festival, the cities of Mesa, Tempe, Phoenix, Chandler, Scottsdale, Gilbert and Mesa MLK Celebration Committee will be joining efforts with AZPBS for a Regional Honoring of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They will create a digital 3-part mini documentary series based on the iconic 'I Have A Dream' speech, combined with performing artists and other features celebrating Dr. King Jr to be broadcasted on PBS as a special program. The City will continue the recognition during the month of February through a social media campaign highlighting 'Black History Month' and ways for the community to be engaged.

In lieu of gathering at Tempe Town Lake, the cities of Mesa, Tempe, Phoenix, Chandler, Scottsdale, Gilbert and Guadalupe will join together for a Regional Unity ArtWalk: A Visual Journey of Culture, Diversity and Equity all through January. The Unity ArtWalk will feature art (murals, sculptures, paintings, etc.) throughout the region that can be accessed outdoors or socially distanced. A map will be created with location pins indicating the exact locations of all art exhibits throughout the cities. Additionally, Guest Curator Clottee Hammons will be hosting a special pop-up exhibition at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum in conjunction with the Unity ArtWalk from December 22 until January 31.

7. Hear and discuss update to City of Mesa Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan and MEI Scorecard.

Ms. Alicoate reminded the board of City's Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan, as it was discussed and reviewed in detail at the October board meeting. The board did not have any questions for

Ms. Alicoate regarding the plan and complemented her on the City's efforts with formulating an action plan.

Ms. Alicoate informed the board that the Human Rights Campaign Foundation annually assesses cities in the Municipal Equality Index (MEI). She indicated that the organization will be launching their 2020 evaluations on Thursday, December 3rd. Staff will send information on the 2020 MEI Scorecard to the board via email for their review once publicly available.

8. Hear and discuss HRAB creation of job skills resource guide for the public.

Mr. Smith thanked the Chair and other board members for providing suggestions and ideas to implement a job skills resources webpage. Mr. Smith inquired from the board if there were any individuals who were interested in assisting on this effort to advise staff. Staff would be providing the list of compiled resources for the board members to review in the interim.

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

(9a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on January 27, 2021 at 6pm via ZOOM to be later announced.

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

Mr. Smith attended the Inaugural Equality Advisory Council meeting held by Mesa Public Schools. Mr. Wade noted that he had seen a news publication that wrote about the many Mesa CARES programs the City has conducted and commended the City for such efforts. Ms. Faatoafe reported that she had attended the Business Diversity Summit held online by the Mesa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Navajo Nation Business Development Forum. Mr. Williams attended the 2nd BRIDGE Forum concerning Mental Health and was able to introduce the US Surgeon General Jerome Adams for the keynote address.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM

***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.