
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
December 20, 2023 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on December 20, 2023 at 6:00pm electronically via Zoom.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
Christiana Hammond Vice Chair	Ron Williams	Andrea Alicoate	
Sabrina Dobson	Nina Allred	Elisha Gutierrez	
Abram Ellsworth	William Campos	Lindsey Balinkie	
Rochelle Johns	Brett Caldwell		
Mahmoud Riyad	Yudidt Nonthe Sanchez		
Oscar White			

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Hammond called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Nina Allred 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 November 29, 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- Ms. Hammond, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Johns, Mr. Riyad and Mr. White

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss a presentation from the Office of Homeless Solutions on the landscape of homelessness in Mesa, current services, and future programming.

Lindsey Balinkie, Deputy Director of Community Services, provided the HRAB with a presentation on the Office of Homeless Solutions. She began by providing statistics surrounding homelessness within Maricopa County and key findings for the City of Mesa. Federal funding sources were highlighted as an aid for new services that are becoming available. She reviewed the current assistance and programming offered to address homelessness for community health and safety. She explained Mesa's Housing Path and their current outreach efforts. She also provided details on the expansion of services to reduce homelessness by increasing staff and accessibility. They also partner with local

agencies, including Community Bridges Inc., and internal departments to maximize resources. She expressed the goal of building relationships and using human services as an approach versus enforcement methods.

Ms. Balinkie provided an overview of the Off the Streets program and a current data summary which included detailed demographic information, program requirements, priorities, facility details, and wrap-around services. Through this, she provided examples of individuals who participated in the program. She also described collaboration with the City of Mesa's Community Court in their goals for addressing individual issues and identifying resources. She reviewed an outline that provides guidance on reporting issues and emergencies in the community regarding homelessness and other related common concerns. She concluded her presentation by sharing information on upcoming events, future special response teams, and initiatives that support this topic.

Board members asked specific questions related to program participant intake and supportive services. Ms. Balinkie answered questions and responded to feedback provided by HRAB. Ms. Hammond thanked Ms. Balinkie for the presentation and noted that the board would be interested in her coming back and sharing more information as updated.

5. Hear and discuss Sophisticated Marketing Solutions' use of Mesa Business Builder (MBB) Small Business Assistance.

Item was tabled for the next meeting.

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

(6a) Mesa/ East Valley Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Parade & Festival on January 15, 2024 from 11am-4pm in Downtown Mesa.

(6b) Next HRAB meeting will be held on January 24, 2024 at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

Ms. Alicoate provided details of the upcoming event and next meeting.

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

Item was tabled for the next meeting.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,
Director of Diversity & Engagement