



CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
January 26, 2022 Minutes

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on January 26, 2022 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

Table with 4 columns: MEMBERS PRESENT, MEMBERS ABSENT, STAFF PRESENT, GUESTS. Lists names of participants and staff.

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

(1a) Introduction of new HRAB member, Rochelle Johns.

Ms. Johns introduced herself to the board and the board introduced themselves to Ms. Johns.

(1b) 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 November 17, 2021 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Brennan, 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, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Johns, Mr. McAllister, Ms. Nonthe Sanchez and Mr. Smith.

NAYS- None

4. Hear and discuss update on Mesa Police Department community forums and other community engagement initiatives.

Commander Robert Rash from the Mesa Police Department was pleased to announce that the City of Mesa Police Department (MPD) was the recipient of a Hate Crime Initiative Grant for \$750,000 dollars through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This grant was awarded in the fall of 2021 and will remain in effect through the fall of 2024. The MPD will use these funds to create and implement a comprehensive approach to combating reported and unreported hate crimes in Mesa. The key objectives will be to hire and train a subject matter expert with the rank of Detective under the Department of Counter Terrorism and Homeland Security. This newly positioned Detective will investigate reported hate crimes, increase public awareness of hate crimes, create and schedule training for current MPD officers on recognizing and investigating hate crimes, work with Victim Advocates and the City Prosecutors Office to combat hate crimes in Mesa. This collaborative approach will include community engagement, an academically driven survey, and an advisory board. Commander Rash recommended that current board members consider joining or recommending advisory members as they are proven leaders in the community and their voice is important. Mr. Williams provided thanks to Commander Rash and the Mesa Police Department for their commitment to the citizens of Mesa in combating hate crimes in our city.

Tara Hall, City of Mesa Police Community Partnership Administrator, introduced Mini Salas, City of Mesa Media Relations Specialist who has created the MPD Women's Leadership Lunch series. This series brings together a panel of highly accomplished speakers from various industries to talk about leadership and advancement in the workplace. Ms. Hall also congratulated Ms. Salas on winning the 2021 Community Leader Award from the Diversity Leadership Alliance Organization. Ms. Hall was also recognized for her own 2021 Athena HAIL Award.

5. Hear and discuss a recap of January's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Events.

Mr. Williams serves as the co-chair of the Arizona Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee which celebrated its 36<sup>th</sup> year of promoting cultural diversity, awareness and unity in Arizona. He shared the experience of presenting guest speakers Martin Luther King III, his wife, Arndrea King, and keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Warren Stewart Sr., who is widely known for his leadership in establishing an Arizona State Holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at this year's award event.

Ms. Alicoate shared an update on the success of the East Valley Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and Festival held on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in downtown Mesa.

6. Hear and discuss the Regional Human Relations Commission meeting to be held on January 27, 2022 virtually.

Ms. Alicoate announced that the City will be hosting the Regional Human Relation Commission meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022 via Zoom. Board members were encouraged to attend. Guest Speaker will include Jeff Olivet.

7. Hear and discuss an update on the Community Learning Series.

Ms. Alicoate provided an update that staff has been working with individual board members to coordinate interviews and filming for the Community Learning Series and will continue to do so. Ms. Alicoate also stated that the format of the series will go from 3-5minute individual episodes as opposed to 15min collaborative episodes as it is harder to find uniform messages among multiple speakers. This new format will provide more opportunities to highlight the unique voices of our Mesa community.

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

(8a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on February 23, 2022 at 6pm in the Lower-Level Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

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

Mr. Williams reported that he served as Master of Ceremonies at the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr at Travis L. Williams American Legion Post #65. He also shared the recent work of the Mesa Regional Foundation for Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM

**\*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.**