

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**October 22, 2014 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014,  
at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair  
Mark Tompert, Vice Chair  
Cheryl Anderson  
Colleen Byron  
Frank Johnson  
Tony Liuzzo  
Talmage Pearce  
Lu Ann Schmidt  
Nadia Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Frias-Long  
Cliff Moon

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate  
Sharon Burlingame  
Ruth Giese  
Kelly Gregan  
Dave Hager  
Debbie Spinner  
Karen Stegenga  
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Delbert Heap  
Jackie Heap  
Mayor John Giles  
Emily Johnson  
Councilmember Dennis  
Kavanaugh  
David Martinez II

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap began the meeting at 6:03pm.

2. Items from Citizens Present.\*

There were no citizens who requested to speak.

3. Welcoming remarks from Mayor John Giles.

Mayor Giles and Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh thanked the board for their continued commitment to Mesa and for their yearlong work on the Inclusion & Diversity report.

4. Approval of minutes from the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Liuzzo to approve the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting minutes, Ms. Schmidt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Hear an update from the City Attorney regarding the Open Meeting Law and Conflicts of Interest Law.

Ms. Spinner, City Attorney for the City of Mesa, spoke on Arizona's Open Meeting Law and provided answers to the questions posed at the previous board meeting. Ms. Spinner reviewed the specifics of the law including that quorum must be met to conduct meetings. For the purposes of HRAB, a quorum of the full board would consist of six members or more, for sub-committees a quorum consist of the majority of the committee. If there is a two or three member committee, then none of the participants can speak to an issue that will come to that committee during or outside of a meeting. Ms. Spinner addressed if there is legal significant to the term, 'Items from Citizens Present'. Ms. Spinner noted that there is no significance to the term, but this is the language historically used in Mesa. This item allows for citizen comments, however the Chair of the board can also allow for comments during specific topic items on the agenda.

Next, Ms. Spinner answered what kind of information can be sent to other board members or by staff. It is recommended not to send information to other board members if it is information that may come to the board to prevent a quorum of those receiving the information. It is also difficult not to capture opinions or comments on the item being disseminated; therefore it is recommended to have staff disseminate all information. Ms. Spinner noted that the Attorney General's Office has a team called the Open Meeting Law Enforcement Team (OMLET) that enforces these regulations. Ms. Spinner also reviewed the purpose of taking minutes as means of reporting

to the City Council, and advised that Board members must declare gifts exceeding \$50 by filing a statement with the City's Clerks Office.

6. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department Report.

- Report on police related incidents and activities.

Cmdr. Hager oversees the technical services division of the department which includes the IT, communications, records areas. Their goal is to make information easier to report through technology such as 'Cop Logic', an online reporting system. They are also implementing a kiosk at the station where citizens can report the same information via a kiosk if they do not have computer access. Another project is the 'Go Mobile' app where they are placing all the crime stats, announcements, job postings, etc. to make information convenient and readable. Ms. Heap questioned if the MPD Diversity team can have a social media page. Cmdr. Hager commented that he would look into it.

Cmdr. Burlingame oversees the Red Mountain District. Red Mountain District houses 130 patrol officers, CIU detectives, plain-clothes division, crime analysis and crime prevention unit and administrative staff servicing approximately 157,000 people over 33 square miles. On average they take in over 8,500 calls for service each month. Cmdr. Burlingame stated that they try to stay on top of crime trends and break them down to deploy forces to combat and prevent more crime. Ms. Heap questioned if the Red Mountain District will be revamping their meetings with citizens. In response, Cmdr. Burlingame stated that as a new Commander she will be focusing on attending community meetings and increasing their presence. Ms. Heap also praised Cmdr. Burlingame on her work as part of the MPD Diversity Team.

- Updates and scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

The Asian Community Advisory Board will be meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5:30pm at a restaurant (location yet to be determined) and the Senior Advisory Board is scheduled to meet on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 9:30am at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center. The Human Right Advisory Board is also scheduled to meet on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 11am at the Fiesta Sub-Station Community Room. The Community Engagement Team is meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 12pm at Mesa Community College.

7. Hear a presentation and discuss a program related to how to 'Become an Alzheimer's Aware Business' and Dementia-Friendly Community.

Ms. Stegenga, Crime Prevention Officer with Mesa Police Department, presented on how Mesa is working to become an Alzheimer's Aware and Dementia-Friendly Community. With the aid of a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, MPD is dedicated to keeping residents of Mesa safe, especially those with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (AD/D), who may leave their home and become lost. For that reason, they offer a free Adult Information Kit for families and caregivers who are caring for someone with AD/D. The Kit provides a means to record identifying information and a place to post a recent photo of the person with AD/D. The Kit also includes questions asked by 911 operators about missing adults.

Ms. Stegenga also explained the importance of communities decaling themselves 'Dementia-Friendly'. Mesa, along with two other cities, has been selected by the University of Illinois for a pilot program establishing agency protocols and training. In Mesa, between March and July, every police officer from patrol officers to the Chief received a 1-hour training.

8. Hear, discuss and take action on the Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Inclusion & Diversity Report.

While under the meeting facilitation of Mr. Tompert, Ms. Heap made a motion for the following amendments to the draft report:

On page 34, item C: add 'for example' within the parenthesis.

On page 35, first bullet point under section B to read: Develop a branding campaign similar to the award winning Safe Space Project of the University of Washington. The program would serve as a means to identify support for inclusion on the part of residents and businesses.

On page 35, first bullet under section C to read: Create a City Advisory Board to assess the needs, make recommendations, monitor ADA compliance, and educate residents and businesses about those with physical, mental, emotional, and developmental disabilities.

On page 35, add another bullet point to section C to read: Support the 'Alzheimer's' Aware' and Dementia Friendly Community.

On page 36, first bullet under section E to read: Create a City Non-Discrimination Ordinance in housing, employment, and public accommodations which provides protection on the basis of ethnicity, age, race, sex, gender, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation or perception, gender identity, genetic information, veteran or military status, marital or familial status, or disability.

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Schmidt seconded the motion in unison. The motion moved unanimously.

9. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Youth Diversity Education Team.

- Provide an update on expanding youth involvement with the Community Cinema Series.

Dr. Liuzzo explained that YDET is taking on the promotion and planning of the April event for the film titled, 'The Homestretch'. Ms. Heap noted that she will be facilitating the event, Ms. Frias-Long will be taking pictures and Mr. Moon will be taking notes.

- Provide an update on Diversity Youth Survey in order to explore ways to connect with youth and educate them on diversity related issues.

Dr. Liuzzo stated that they are currently in the process of administering the Diversity Youth Survey. They have received 18 responses and are looking to obtain approximately 45-50 responses before taking the next course of action.

- MLK Committee's Youth Leadership Development Conference.

Dr. Liuzzo advised that the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee is planning a Youth Leadership Development Conference in April; however there were no updates since the previous meeting.

10. Hear, and discuss on items presented by the Ad Hoc Disabilities Action Team.

- Provide an update on transportation services for people with disabilities including reviewing a quarterly report and annual report on East Valley Dial-A-Ride.

Ms. Anderson advised that Ms. Sorrell, City of Mesa Transit Director, provided an informational update on the East Valley Dial-a-Ride (EVDAR) and transit services. Ms. Sorrell briefed DAT on the first quarter results of ADA eligibility, RideChoice and Platinum Pass usage in FY 14-15. The City of Mesa is consistently a high user of all programs when compared to others in the East Valley: Tempe, Scottsdale, Chandler, Gilbert and Fountain Hills. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Heap directed staff to distribute Ms. Sorrell's presentation to the full board. Ms. Heap also expressed thanks to Ms. Schmidt for sharing her personal experiences with transit usage because it helped to identify areas that need to be addressed.

- Provide an update on the educational awareness campaign related to service animals and ADA regulations for businesses.

Ms. Anderson informed that staff provided a copy of the final brochure. Ms. Heap made a motion to approve the final ADA Business Compliance Guide, Mr. Tompert seconded the motion at the same time. The motion moved unanimously. Mr. Tompert noted that board members will need to assist with distributing the information. Ms. Giese stated that she spoke with the Downtown Mesa Association, City of Mesa Chamber and Economic Development Department who will also help disseminate.

- Provide an update on town hall meetings to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Anderson stated that sub-committee agreed to hold three Town Hall meetings. DAT discussed a tentative date for the first event to for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Marc Community Resources, Inc. Ms. Anderson advised that they will incorporate speakers from Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care as well as personal testimony statements. Staff was directed to contact Ms. Frias-Long to confirm the tentative date, and they are still awaiting her response.

- Provide an update on the need for and feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley.

Ms. Anderson will be contacting Dr. Michael Franczak, Chief Operating Officer of Behavior Health Services, from Marc Community Resources, Inc. to present on the matter at a future meeting.

- Provide an update on the ways to evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

Ms. Anderson informed that DAT agreed that they are awaiting response from City Council on their recommendations, but wish to keep the item on their agenda and open for discussion for the future.

11. Hear, discuss and take action on conferences and/or meetings.

- Community Cinema Series- Evolution of a Criminal, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, Dobson Ranch Library.

Ms. Heap noted that Ms. Frias-Long attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Multi-Cultural Conference at the Chandler-Gilbert Community College on October 11<sup>th</sup> and gave it high reviews.

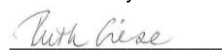
12. Discuss and take action on scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next meeting will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator