

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
January 28, 2015 Minutes

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on January 28th, 2015,
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
Karen Frias-Long
Tony Liuzzo
Frank Johnson
Cliff Moon
Talmage Pearce
Lu Ann Schmidt
Nadia Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Colleen Byron

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Ruth Giese
Michael Soelberg
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Brenda Benage

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap began the meeting at 6:00pm.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

There were no citizens who requested to speak.

3. Approval of minutes from the November 19th, 2014 meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Liuzzo to approve the November 19th, 2014 meeting minutes, Mr. Tompert Ms. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- Report on police related incidents and activities.

Commander Michael Soelberg oversees the Superstition District. He reported that there has been a 1% increase in crime, with an increase of burglaries and robberies. Cmdr. Soelberg also reported that the police districts are will be going through re-districting in the city, so boundaries will likely change in August. Cmdr. Soelberg is also part of the Mesa Police Diversity Team.

In addition, an update on Alzheimer's and dementia officer training was provided. Crisis intervention officers have been provided this training. Ms. Anderson asked how officers are trained in crisis intervention. Cmdr. Soelberg stated that training is 40 hours. Approximately 120 (one-third) officers have been trained in the department. Ms. Heap asked if there is alternative training other than the 40 hours class. Cmdr. Soelberg stated that there are a handful of shorter trainings, but not one that is specifically for just crisis intervention.

- Updates and scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

Ray Villa also shared that Mesa Police Department was part of a panel discussion in December on police community building. In addition, this month the Asian Advisory board, Clergy Advisory Board, and the Senior Advisory Board will be holding meetings.

5. Hear a presentation and discuss the need for and feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley from Marc Community Resources, Inc.

Brenda Benage, Chief Operating Officer of Connections Arizona, provided an overview of its psychiatric care facility. They provide care to those experiencing a behavioral health emergency. They have 1800 visits per month, 800 police drop offs per month, and of the 2100 drops offs during a 10 month period, 880 were from Mesa Police. That equates to about 90 times per month. Ms. Benage also review discharge data with the board. The wait time for admitting a patient has also dropped dramatically. In addition, in deciding whether to build a facility, need to consider family time to drive to Phoenix, police time in driving to Phoenix. Up-front costs are extensive, but will see a recouping of those upfront costs and are a valuable resource. Ms. Anderson also noted that it is a benefit for loved ones to be there with patients and quickens the recovery, so that consideration is an important consideration.

Ms. Heap noted that in recovery centers should be looked at by population. Ms. Benage noted that while there is a variety of services, but that she is sure there is not enough. Their facility is a Crisis Intervention facility, which is an important characteristic because anyone can go there at any time without question. Ms. Benage is happy to continue the discussion. Ms. Benage did also note that they do not have current demographic statistics. Dr. Moon asked if staff has multicultural training. Ms. Benage answered yes, it is a requirement to go through cultural competency training, and have ongoing annual requirements.

6. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Youth Diversity Education Team Sub-Committee.

- Provide an update on the April 9, 2015 screening of *The Homestretch*.

Ms. Frias-Long provided an update on the screening of the April 9, 2015 screening of *The Homestretch* film and event. Ms. Heap noted that David Martinez, Director of Housing for One in Ten, a support organization for LGBT youth, and two representatives of Tumbleweed, which also works with homeless youth will be panelists. This screening occurs during Phoenix Pride Week, and can co-sponsor this event as part of their Pride Week activities.

A motion was made by Ms. Heap to have Phoenix Pride be a co-sponsor of the April 9, 2015 screening of *The Homestretch*. Ms. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Provide an update on the planning of a diversity education project with Baha'i community, Anti-Defamation League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Gay Lesbian Education Network.

Ms. Frias-Long provided an update on the diversity youth education project, the subcommittee is working with various groups to put together a Youth Town Hall.

- Provide an update on exploring and assessing whether bullying is an issue in Mesa.

The subcommittee is doing research on bullying in Mesa. Dr. Liuzzo noted that he forwarded a bullying article for the board to review regarding bullying. In addition, Ms. Heap added that she will obtain resources from the Southern Poverty Law Center and Anti-Defamation League. Dr. Moon is also conducting research, with focus on Mesa.

7. Hear, and discuss on items presented by the Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee.

- Provide an update from the Mesa City Court protocol for diverting defendants who have mental health issues, veterans, and/or are homeless.

Ms. Anderson updated HRAB on the Mesa Veterans Court. The court is set to begin in February. The subcommittee also requested that Paul Thomas and Anne Gervais be nominated for a city award for all their work. Ruth Giese stated that she would forward their request to the City Manager and Mesa Court Director Matt Tafoya.

- Provide an update on planning for March 24, 2015 town hall meeting to educate the community on mental health and substance abuse issues

Ms. Anderson gave an update on the upcoming town hall. A tentative agenda is ready and The Mesa Fire Fighters Association will be providing refreshments. Ms. Anderson asked that the flyer be distributed among the board's contacts.

8. Discuss, consider and take action on participation in 2015 Pride Parade on Sunday, April 12th, 2015 at 10am.

A motion was made by Ms. Frias- Long to participate in 2015 Pride Parade on Sunday, April 12th, 2015. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Discuss, consider and take action on One Mesa Community Pledge.

HRAB discussed the Mayor's announcement of the One Mesa Pledge. Ms. Heap asked that individual board members sign the pledge, to send out to your contacts and media lists, and for the board to endorse the pledge. A motion was made by Ms. Heap for HRAB to endorse the One Mesa Pledge. Ms. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- Personal finance and nutrition class for the Youth Diversity Education Committee.
- ADA inquires for the ADA Coordinators for the Disabilities Action Team.
- Heston Silbert from Mesa Police Department to discuss hate crimes.
- Bev Tittle-Baker to make presentation on Care Partnership.

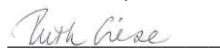
11. Discuss and take action on scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next meeting will be held on February 25th, 2014.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator