
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
August 24, 2016 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on August 24, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Tompert- Chair
Nadia Khalighi- Vice Chair
Colleen Byron
Joseph Holmes
Robert Martinez
Martin Rios
Cassandra Sampson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cliff Moon
Talmage Pearce
Louis Wade

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Ezcurra
Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese
Ast. Chief Soelberg
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Nancy Thompson

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Mr. Tompert called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

2. Remembrance of Cheryl Anderson, long standing member and former Vice-Chair of the Board.

Mr. Tompert gave a brief summary of Ms. Anderson's time and contributions to the Board. Afterward, the entire Board observed a moment of silence for her.

3. Introduction of new Board members.

Mr. Holmes introduced himself to the group. He stated that he is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the Heal the Hero foundation. The Board welcomed him. Ms. Sampson introduced herself to the Board. She informed them that she is currently a middle school teacher in Mesa and also serves on a Social Justice Board and Admissions Board with a local church. The Board welcomed her. Mr. Wade was unable to attend.

4. Items from citizens present. *

Ms. Nancy Thompson addressed the Board. Ms. Thompson came from the Washington/Escobedo neighborhood and explained that about six years ago, the City of Mesa came and helped her neighborhood put together the Washington/Escobedo Quality of Life Plan. She informed the Board that she is looking for more ways to improve services and programs for her neighborhood through the City. She also stated that she was interested to see what the HRAB was all about. The Board thanked her for joining the meeting.

5. Approval of minutes from the May 25, 2016 HRAB meeting.

Dr. Byron made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2016 meeting. Ms. Khalighi seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Hear presentation from Mesa Police Department regarding 21st Century Policing.

Assistant Chief Soelberg provided the Board with a booklet outlining 21st Century and how it pertains to the City of Mesa. This was commissioned by the President after certain national events that scrutinized gun control and how to help police have a better understanding of how to handle volatile situations. The recommendations were broken down into six pillars and the City of Mesa addressed each of them in a comprehensive report. Assistant Chief also expressed the fact that one of the key pieces of this is community involvement. That is part of the reason that Mr. Villa attends each of the HRAB meetings. Much of this report also focuses on police training and the transparency that comes along with that. Several members of the Mesa PD attended a conference in Washington D.C. that addressed how to implement action to satisfy the recommendations that were made. Mesa PD will be working on an annual survey to give to the community to help gauge ways that they can improve their services to the residents. Dr. Byron suggested that the City speak with the Morrison Institute in regards to the development of the survey. She also inquired as to whether or not the more complete document that the report is based on is available. Assistant Chief Soelberg assure the Board that the report is in fact, the most complete document out there containing this information. He also suggested that they are continually asking themselves "What are we doing to remain engaged in the community?" And the MPD is constantly finding ways to do things better. Ms. Sampson asked whether or not the training that is given to officers who are a part of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) will be rolled out to all officers. Assistant Chief Soelberg informed the Board that all officers received eight hours of CIT training this past spring. This is different than the CIT certification class, but is still substantial. They also received eight hours of de-escalation training and methodology.

7. Hear, discuss, and update Board work plan for 2016-2017 Board year.

Mr. Tompert explained that the Board's Strategic Plan is for two years and that this is the "off" year. The full day Strategic Retreat will be held at the start of the 2017-2018 Board year. This is now the time to go through the current plan and update it with items that have been addressed, items that need to be added, or items that need further attention. The Board reviewed each page of the Strategic Plan and addressed each item. It was decided that the standing activity of the Disabilities Action Team (DAT) addressing evaluation of the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act would be removed. It was also recommended that carry-over activity of the DAT of providing input for the design standards of adapting housing to individuals with disabilities could be removed.

(7a) Organize Subcommittees.

It was decided that the subcommittees would be changed to the second Thursday of each month beginning at 5PM, each for a forty-five-minute duration.

8. Hear updates, discuss, and take action on the progress of the City's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance.

There were no current updates regarding this item. The Board will keep it on the agenda and monitor it throughout the upcoming Board year.

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

Mr. Rios informed the Board that he attended several meeting throughout June, July, and August. These meetings were in Mesa, Chandler, and Gilbert and led by MAHC. He also attended the Police Community Partnership Committee at the Gilbert Police Department. The purpose of the committee is to foster relationships between the community and the local police department. Their mission is to enhance communication, trust, and understanding within the community and the PD. Mr. Rios also attended the Mesa Police Department Forum which focused on the 21st Century Policing policy that was recommended by the President. He informed the Board that he has some information from both the Gilbert and Chandler Police department regarding 21st Century Policing and he would be happy to share it with the Board. Mr. Tompert informed the Board that he attended the Voices of Deadly Force meeting that addressed some of the national events that have been occurring in regards to excessive force.

10. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information, including those set forth below.

(10a) The next Board meeting will be held on September 28, 2016 at 6:00PM

(10b) Regional Human Relations Commission meeting on September 21, 2016 from 5-8PM at the Chandler Public Library- Copper Room

Ms. Freeland collected names of Board members who would like to attend this meeting.

(10c) 5th Annual Multicultural Education Conference- Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Chandler-Gilbert Community College Pecos Campus 2626 E Pecos Rd Chandler, AZ.

(10d) Veteran's Day Parade and Benefit Concert- Friday, November 11, 2016.

11. Take picture of full Board for the 2016-2017 year.

This item will be added to next month's agenda when more members of the Board will be present.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

***Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. State Statute prohibits the Human Relations Advisory Board from discussing any item that is not on the agenda.**

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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.