
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
March 27th, 2019 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on March 27, 2019
at 6:00pm in the Upper Level City Council Chambers at 57 E 1st St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Colleen Byron, Vice-Chair
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe
Alvaro Gonzalez
Joseph Holmes
Jared Smith
Ron Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cliff Moon, Chair
Nadia Khalighi
Silvia Stanford
Mark Tompert
Louis Wade

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Charles Cobb
Ruth Giese
Kelly Gregan
Tara Hall
Cisco Luzania

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Dr. Byron, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Ms. Alicoate announced Dr. Moon, Mr. Wade, Mr. Tompert, and Ms. Khalighi as excused absences.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

There were no citizens present who wished to speak to the Board.

3. Approval of minutes from the February 27, 2019 Board meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Smith that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Dr. Byron, Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Smith, Mr. Williams.

NAYS- None

4. Discuss and hear presentation on the purpose and function of the Human Relations Advisory Report.

Ms. Gregan, Assistant City Attorney, was present to give a presentation on the role of the HRAB and how its member roles fit in the overall mission of the City of Mesa. The City Charter gave the ability to create the HRAB in accordance with Mesa City Code Title 2 Chapter 12. Ms. Gregan went on to elaborate the text of the city code and stated that City Council does have the ability to task the board with other issues. Ms. Gregan informed that it is the mission of the City Council to ensure that the boards are making every effort to address issues that apply to City function and services as to

better serve the Mesa residents. Additionally, advisory boards serve to inform the City and advise the City Council on topics applicable to the boards mission.

5. Discuss and make recommendations on Mesa Police Department Monthly Community Engagement Board.

(4a) Updates on Diversity related police incidents and activities.

Mr. Cobbs, Community Affairs Liaison, was present to provide an update on properties located in the 600-700blk E Main St. The most recent occurrence being an incident involving an African-American male and Mesa Police Department (MPD). Mr. Cobbs addressed how MPD is making efforts to improve relations between the department and residents. Mr. Cobbs stated that he has been working closely with Pastor Andre Miller of Mesa and Chief Batista. Through those conversations, it was discovered that there was once a satellite office at that property utilized by MPD. Mr. Cobbs said that he approached the Chief to inquire about reutilizing the vacant property to begin closing the separation between the department and the community. This was done to great excitement to the property managers and residents.

Ms. Hall, Police Community Partnership Administrator, announced that the Community Engagement Classes have been filled at Mesa Community College and will be sponsored by 7/11. This will be done to better prepare for future classes and will allow for proper feedback from those in attendance. The Youth Development programs are looking to expand past the high school and middle school populations and have begun to focus on elementary aged community members. For example, at Longfellow Elementary an officer was present to assist in the renovations of the school's library as well as reading with the children. At Hermona Vista Elementary there is a Spanish/English immersion class that will also have an officer assist in reading and helping reach out to other schools to expand the program. At Eagles Community Center, there is a running program that has plain clothes officers running alongside the participants in order to build a relationship before they see an officer in a uniform.

Ms. Hall stated that Mr. Cobbs has been doing a considerable amount of outreach for the African-American Community forum which will include topics such as use of force, diversity and other attendee submitted topics. In addition, Mr. Cobbs elaborated that he was attempting to institute a "Barbershop" program in which community members would have the opportunity to speak with officers at a barbershop in order to be in a low-stress and friendly environment in the hopes of creating productive dialogue that will lead to community building and a better understanding of both sides.

(4b) Updates on scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

Mr. Williams asked for the scheduling of these events. Ms. Hall provided Ms. Alicoate with the schedule of the 11 Community Police Advisory Board meetings to distribute to the board members.

(4b-1) Updates on a meeting of the LGBTQ Community Forum.

Ms. Hall expanded that the forum is being done in collaboration with the Friendly Colors Club at Mesa Community College and they are both currently reaching how to build a group to regularly attend the forum. There is also an attempt to create a Police Youth Forum that will be working closely with the Red Mountain MCC campus to have young people interview police

officers. Ms. Hall said that this collaboration was important because the existing group at MCC Red Mountain already had parental permission to attend such events and there would not be any additional consent forms required. Dr. Byron asked how interviews would be tracked and/or recorded in order to record the data, to which Ms. Hall responded that Dr. Moon had offered his services to assist with the process. Ms. Hall would give updates as to the specifics of the data collection as it becomes available from Dr. Moon.

Ms. Faatoafe went on to commend Ms. Hall and Mesa PD for attending the Native American Fatherhood event.

6. Discuss and hear presentation from Mesa County on College on diversity issues within schools

Ms. Alicoate stated that Mesa County on College was unable to attend this board meeting but will be attending the April meeting.

7. Discuss and take action on creating a recommendation to Mayor and Council on providing City services to individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues.

The Board did not discuss this item and it was tabled for the next meeting.

8. Discuss and provide direction on the planning and implementation of the Youth Peace Building Summit.

Ms. Alicoate stated that the Youth Peace Building Summit is planned for April 13th, 2019 from 8-4pm. At a planning meeting held at Eagles Community Center, there was a tour done of the facility to properly allocate rooms for the event and to ensure proper space. The RSVP's have been sent out to junior high school teachers and counselors.

The survey results of the Women's Empowerment Summit were evaluated by the Board. Dr. Byron asked how the response rate of the surveys was for the event, to which Mr. Luzania responded that out of roughly 60 attendees there were 54 survey respondents. Dr. Byron commended all those who worked on the Women's Empowerment Summit and lauded the topics and relevancy. Dr. Byron suggested sending out advertising and information much earlier so that more people can have the opportunity to attend. Ms. Alicoate also added that there was a considerable amount of new promotion for the event and that 60% of attendees were new to the event.

9. Discuss and provide direction on advising the City Council on the issue of a Non-Discrimination Ordinance.

Previous HRAB meetings provided the updated that the 2018 House Bill 2586 had been assigned to committees but did not progress and that all new bills akin to a non-discrimination ordinance had not been assigned in this legislative session essentially killing them. Given the Board's previous request for direction, Ms. Alicoate elaborated that an evaluation and recommendation was made to Council concerning such an ordinance in 2015 based off the statistical and anecdotal surveys, and a report was culminated by the Board with 22 recommendations. Ms. Alicoate suggested the Board proceed with making any new recommendations to Mayor and Council in relation to their 2015 list and accomplishments of their strategic plan. Dr. Byron suggested a brief list is made of the original 22 strategic plan goals so that a quick evaluation could be made as to which areas have been

completed and which areas would need to be more focused on moving forward. This will be reviewed at the April meeting.

10. Hear report on and discuss 'Fair Housing Month' diversity training.

Ms. Alicoate stated that this training was being completed with a collaboration between the City of Mesa's Housing & Community Revitalization and Diversity Offices. The focus of this training would be primarily based on customer service for LGBTQ issues as it pertains to housing discrimination. The target audience of this training would be City of Mesa Housing staff as well as other city departments and opened to regional partners from other Housing agencies. Ms. Alicoate explained that this training was not complaint driven, but was a proactive approach being taken to better prepare staff members for a different variety of situations that might arise and will assist city staff in being advocates against housing discrimination. Dr. Byron asked if there were any statistic of how many people make such discrimination complaints. Ms. Alicoate stated that the complaints would not typically be made against the City but rather the entity the individual is receiving housing from, but that staff often has in-depth conversation when an individual is applying for program assistance and that this training would assist staff in spotting potential violations or discrimination.

11. Hear report on and discuss Board members establishing relationships with new community partners as it relates to human relation issues.

Ms. Alicoate added that all presenters at the Women's Empowerment Summit would be considered new community partners for their participation in a board sponsored event. Mr. Williams inquired as to the parameters of establishing new community partners, to which Ms. Alicoate replied that they would be any engagements in which a board member is acting in his/her capacity as a board member either through programming or speaking engagements were board information is relayed.

12. Scheduling of future agenda items, general information, and Board attendees at upcoming meetings and events including those set forth below.

- (11a) Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 6PM in the Lower Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).
- (11c) Indie Lens Pop-Up! Film Screening of 'Won't You Be My Neighbor' to be held on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 6:30PM at Benedictine University Mesa (225 E Main St).
- (11d) 2019 Pride Parade to be held on Sunday, April 7, 2019 beginning at 3rd St and Thomas. Parade step off begins at 10AM.
- (11e) Youth Peace Building Summit to be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9AM to 4PM at Eagles Community Center (828 E Broadway).
- (11f) Save the Date: Regional Human Relations Commission meeting the evening of Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 5PM to 7:30PM at Western Spirit: Scottsdale Museum of the West (3830 N Marshall Way).

13. Hear reports on conferences and/or meeting attended.

There were no reports on conferences and/or meeting attended.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01PM.

***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.**

The City of Mesa is committed to making its public meetings accessible. For accommodations, translation, or additional information, please contact the City of Mesa Diversity Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at (480) 644-5034 or AzRelay 7-1-1 for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Si necesita asistencia o traducción en español, favor de llamar al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión al 480-644-2767.