

**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
December 4, 2019 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on December 4, 2019
at 6:00pm in the Upper Level Council Chambers 57 E 1st St Mesa AZ 85201.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams- Chair
Colleen Byron
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe
Joseph Holmes
Nadia Khalighi
Bill McAllister
Jared Smith
Lou Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Alane Breland
Tom Brennan
Alvaro Gonzalez

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Cisco Luzania
Jodi Sorrell
Tara Hall

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences

Ms. Alicoate announced that Ms. Breland, Mr. Brennan and Mr. Gonzalez were 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 Oct. 23, 2019 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Dr. Byron, seconded by Mr. Holmes that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Dr. Byron, Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Khalighi, Mr. McAllister, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wade

NAYS- None

4. Discuss and make recommendations on Mesa Police Department monthly report.

(4a) Update on police community forums and other community engagement initiatives.

Ms. Hall thanked the Board for all of their participation in the Mesa Police Department's Community Engagement events and initiatives and hoped that the Board members continue to be part of them moving forward. Ms. Hall informed the Board that the department was meeting to finalize dates for

upcoming events in the year. She also informed the Board of a new hire within her division, Mini Salas, who has experience in community engagement and was excited to use her expertise for the department.

(4b) Reporting and statistics of police cases and trends within the community as it relates to diversity.

Ms. Hall presented the Board with a list of documented hate-crimes that had occurred over the past three years in the City of Mesa. Ms. Hall updated the Board that she was gathering additional incident concerning hate-filled graffiti that was recently discovered and committed to providing the Board an update at the next meeting. Ms. Hall also addressed the Board's previous request of traffic stop data, including the racial makeup of those stops. Ms. Hall stated that she would be more than happy to set up a meeting for any Board member and their data team to discuss what statistics are readily available.

5. Hear and discuss presentation on City of Mesa Transit update on the transition to the realignment of the paratransit service area

Ms. Sorrell introduced herself as the City of Mesa Transit Director and thanked the Board for allowing her to update them on the Department's efforts in making transit services more accessible. Ms. Sorrell informed the Board that it has been a county-wide goal to expand the paratransit services that are provided to residents in need. Mesa has done diligent work in making sure that any modifications to services areas and transit routes were done so to maintain access for riders that may need additional services. Mr. Williams inquired as to what changes to paratransit routes and the RideChoice program were made, to which Ms. Sorrell informed that the majority of changes were to account for the growth in east Mesa and ensuring that any residents who qualified for paratransit had routes available to them. Ms. Sorrell informed that the Transit Department worked with Valley Metro to connect with residents who may have lived outside of normal service areas in order to advise of any changes and how they could continue to access services.

Ms. Sorrell also updated the Board as to the engagement efforts that were being made by the Transit Department to better inform of the ability to utilize the programs and route that increase accessibility. Mr. Williams asked if Transit evaluated ADA edibility themselves, to which Ms. Sorrell responded that there was a facility operated by Valley Metro that coordinated those efforts at their Mobility Center. Ms. Sorrell continued to inform how RideChoice can be a more affordable and flexible option for residents. This option has been met with a relatively positive reaction by riders. Ms. Sorrell concluded by advising the Board that they were able to connect residents with her or any member of her staff if they encounter any specific needs or concerns.

6. Discuss and provide direction on building awareness of current efforts in the community to provide support for migrant issues in Mesa.

Ms. Alicoate informed the Board on behalf of Mr. Gonzalez that he was in contact with Aliento and requested for a representative to provide a future presentation to the Board.

7. Discuss and provide direction on the planning and implementation of the Women's Empowerment Summit.

The event has been scheduled for March 20, 2020. Ms. Khalighi asked which location was selected for the event, to which Ms. Alicoate stated that there were multiple locations reserved and final conformation was contingent on the finalized programming of the event. The Board will continue moving forward with the planning and implementation of the event.

8. Discuss and provide direction on the planning and implementation of the Youth Peace Building Summit and other diversity educational activities for youth.

Ms. Khalighi updated the Board that Benedictine University Mesa had reserved space for this year's summit on February 1, 2020. Additionally, she updated the Board that Colby Jeffers and Cam F. Awesome had expressed continued interest in being a part of this year's event. Also, there was more solidified progress made in ensuring that there was a youth service project included in this year's event. Mr. Wade asked how many people are usually invited, and Ms. Khalighi said that attendance had averaged 100 to 120 attendees.

9. Discuss and provide direction on HRAB community forums to engage the public.

Mr. Williams updated the Board how his continued desire to engage the public more with the Board. He expressed Mayor Giles support in making sure the Human Relations Advisory Board is engaging the public following a meeting with the Mayor. Ms. Faatoafe asked if other Board had a variance of public engagement. Ms. Alicoate stated that depending on the Board purpose and agenda, each Board varied in the amount of attendance gathered at meetings. Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Wade and Mr. McAllister suggested that the Board look for different ways to connect more with the community. Ms. Alicoate relayed Mayor Giles has requested that the Board support both reducing homelessness and 2020 Census engagement efforts.

10. Discuss and elect the position of Interim Vice Chair.

Dr. Byron thanked the Board for their support and expressed her continued desire to serve the Board in the role of Vice Chair.

Mr. Wade nominated Dr. Byron as Vice Chair and Ms. Faatoafe seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations made.

Upon tabulation of votes for selection of Dr. Colleen Byron as Vice Chair, it showed:

AYES- Mr. Williams, Dr. Byron, Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Holmes, Ms. Khalighi, Mr. McAllister, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wade

NAYS- None

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

(11a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on December 4, 2019 at 6pm in the Upper Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

(11b) HRAB presentation at Council Study Session will be held on December 2, 2019 at 5pm in the Lower Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

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

Ms. Khalighi informed and invited the Board to the Zen Nights MLK event being held at the Red Mountain Mesa Community College Campus on January 18, 2020. She committed to sharing a flyer with the Board through email when it becomes available.

Ms. Faatoafe expressed what a great event she attended on November 19, 2019 at the PHX Chamber of Commerce recognizing diversity in the region.

Mr. Williams informed the Board that he had attended Celebrate Mesa, a southwest veteran's event for PTSD, the Mesa PD Community Breakfast and the Police Community Engagement Academy.

13. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

***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.