
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
February 26, 2020 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on February 26, 2020 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level Council Chambers 57 E 1st St Mesa AZ 85201.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Williams- Chair
Colleen Byron-Vice Chair
Tom Brennan
Alvaro Gonzolez
Joseph Holmes
Nadia Khalighi
Bill McAllister
Jared Smith
Lou Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Amy-Lyn Faatoafe

STAFF PRESENT

Mayor John Giles
Andrea Alicoate
Cisco Luzania
Ruth Giese
Natalie Lewis
Melissa Randazzo
Tara Hall
Christopher Withrow

GUESTS

Andre McGant

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

(1a) Announcement of excused absences

Ms. Faatoafe was announced as an excused absence.

2. Items from Citizens Present.

Mr. Andre McGant was present to speak to the Board commending the work they do in the community and their mission of serving Mesa residents.

3. Hear and discuss opening remarks by Mesa Mayor, John Giles.

Mayor Giles was in attendance to speak to the Board about the recent State of the City address as well as other city updates. Mayor Giles first thanked the Board for their work and commitment to the City of Mesa and encouraged the Board to continue the progress being made. Mayor Giles spoke to the economic success the city was experiencing and referenced how the growing Mesa population was an indication how the city and its businesses need to grow with the demand. He spoke about how the 2020 Census was incredibly vital for the continued success of Mesa and its citizens. He requested the Boards help in ensuring as many Mesa residents as possible are aware of the Census and are comfortable in participating.

Mayor Giles also informed the Board about a new utility assistance program that was created by the City of Mesa to assist low-income residents maintain utilities during the summer months and other testing times. Mayor Giles also went on to tell the Board about the MesaNow application that will allow residents to report code violations, make payments and get in contact with the City. Many Board members expressed their appreciation to Mayor Giles on his hard work in making Mesa a

successful community. Each expressed their excitement in working with the Mayor to continue the momentum of Mesa's success and growth.

4. Approval of minutes from the Jan. 22, 2020 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, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Khalighi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. McAllister, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wade.

NAYS- None

5. Discuss and make recommendations on Mesa Police Department (MPD) monthly report.

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

Ms. Hall updated the Board on the progress of the "Share Your Roots" event that is being hosted and coordinated by the Mesa Police Department's Community Engagement Team. All tickets were sold and planning to be in attendance is MPD leadership including Interim Chief Cost. Many officers including Chief Cost will share their stories of becoming police officers and working in their communities. Other community-based organizations will also be in attendance

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

Ms. Hall introduced Executive Lt. Christopher Withrow of MPD as the new department liaison following Commander Wessing's elevation to a different role. Lt. Withrow thanked the Board for having him and spoke about his two-decade experience working in the department and in the City of Mesa. He stated his intent on working with the Board to continue serving the community. Dr. Byron inquired as to an update concerning the statistics previously requested on the racial demographics of all stops and arrests. Lt. Withrow informed the Board that MPD follows all federal requirements when recording stop and arrest data, and those requirements do not track specific race demographics unless an arrest or citation is made. The mention of additional data tracked by the department that was mentioned by a previous MPD liaison was not existent. Additionally, MS Hall and Lt. Withrow notified the Board that all systems had been updated and in use for a couple of years.

Dr. Byron asked if this option was available to officers in the field to make note of such demographics. Lt. Withrow responded to state that arrest and citation paperwork does have fields for such data. He also expanded that the race demographics do not go into the subsections of race demographics. He and Ms. Hall gave the example of how Latino populations are recorded as White in the federal total arrest race data. Dr. Bryon requested that Lt. Withrow provide additional internal data concerning demographics.

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

Mr. Gonzolez had stated that he had been in contact with staff in order to set up a presentation by Reyna Montoya or Aliento. He updated the Board that a presentation was set for the May Board meeting.

7. Discuss and provide direction on the planning and implementation of the 3rd Annual Women's Empowerment Summit.

Dr. Byron updated the Board this year's summit would be taking place in late March at the Mesa Arts Center. This event will be a luncheon and speaking event for working professionals. Dr. Byron stated that she was currently in talks with a few potential speakers for the event.

8. Discuss and provide direction on the planning and implementation of the 5th Annual Youth Peace Building Summit and other diversity educational activities for youth.

Ms. Khalighi updated the Board that the Summit has been postponed to April 2020 allowing for more time to ensure that the speakers requested can attend the event.

9. Discuss and provide direction on the planning and implementation logistics of HRAB community forums to engage the public.

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

(11a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on March 25, 2020 at 6pm in the Lower Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

(11b) Indie Lens Pop-Up! Film Screening of *Bedlam* to be held on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 6:30PM at Benedictine University Mesa (225 E Main St).

(11c) 2020 Pride Parade to be held on Sunday, April 5, 2020 beginning at 3rd St and Thomas. Parade step off begins at 10AM.

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

Mr. Williams, Mr. Wade and Ms Khalighi all reported that they had attended the 2020 Regional Unity Walk in Tempe Beach Park. Mr. Williams also reported that he was in attendance for the 2020 Mesa State of the City address. Ms. Khalighi informed the Board that she had attended the Zen Nights monthly block party. Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Williams shared with the Board that they had attended the Indie Lens Pop-up Film Series screening of *Always in Season*.

12. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 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.