



**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
December 5th, 2018 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on December 5th, 2018 at 6:00pm in the Upper Level City Council Chambers at 57 E 1st St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Moon- Chair
Amy-Lyn Faatoafe
Alvaro Gonzalez
Joseph Holmes
Mark Tompert
Louis Wade
Jared Smith
Silvia Stanford

MEMBERS ABSENT

Colleen Byron
Nadia Khalighi
Ron Williams

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Ruth Giese
Dennis Newburn
Steve Ward

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

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

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Ms. Bryon, Ms. Khalighi and Mr. Williams were announced 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 October 18th, 2018 Board meeting.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES- Dr. Moon, Dr. Byron, Ms. Faatoafe, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Tompert, and Mr. Williams, Mr. Wade.

NAYS- None

4. Discuss and make recommendations on Mesa Police Department Monthly Community Engagement Report.

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

Ms. Tara Hall, Mesa Police Department (MPD) Representative, was not in attendance for the meeting but gave information for Ms. Alicoate to present to the board. There will be a restructuring about how community forum groups will be meeting going forward. Ms. Hall provide a list of MPD

personnel who are responsible for meeting with these groups. There was also a list of dates for when MPD will have their meetings, and they will be moving from monthly to quarterly meeting. Ms. Hall will be creating a SharePoint site for which the board members can access all this information and assist monitor all these MPD groups. Ms. Hall will be at the January meeting to further explain how to access the information.

The board had previously requested more information concerning different cases, Ms. Hall made a request on Dr. Moon's behalf, but the Mesa City Attorney declined to release any new information due to the fact those cases are pending and existing State Laws. Ms. Hall will give updates as soon as there is any new information. Dr. Moon updated the board as to this request while giving some additional background information and known developments.

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

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

There is a meeting December 10th, 2018 at 3:30 pm to continue further planning for the event. Ms. Alicoate invited any interested members to attend.

5. Hear and discuss presentation from Mesa Fire & Medical Department regarding community programs.

Mr. Steve Ward from Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD) presented on their Community Medicine Program. Mr. Ward began with an explanation of the genesis of the pilot program. 7-8 years ago, MFMD did a reevaluation of how to best get medical care those citizens who are in need. There has been an interest in doing so since emergency MFMD calls are mostly for medical emergencies. Paramedics are more accustomed to dealing with life-threatening emergencies (i.e. car crash or heart attack). As a result, nearly all patients were being taken to the emergency room. This was taking trucks and ladders out of service for extended period of times. Nurse Practitioners and EMT's were now assigned to two-person groups to more efficiently address smaller medical emergencies, as opposed to using an entire crew to evaluate whether a trip to the emergency room was necessary.

Dispatchers were evaluating caller/patients' needs to send appropriate units when they did not need to take the person to the emergency room, therefore saving the City and the patients in costs. This was especially helpful in high-volume seasons such as the flu season. These programs were done in conjunction with community partner agencies who provided Master level clinician paired with MFMD paramedics. This allowed emergency room level service at the patient's home. This also led to a 73% decrease in emergency room outpatient service over the course of the program.

Mr. Tompert asked if the money received by MFMD through the grant was added to their normal budget would the pilot program continue. Mr. Ward responded that because there were other programs funded through the grant the number amount would change depending on what was being done this time around. It was the intent for the continuation of the program to remain self-sustaining. Mr. Ward answered that if an additional 3.5 million was allocated to the budget the pilot program could continue. Due to Mesa being a municipality, MFMD could not focus on cost recovery in order to remain sustainable. Los Angeles has placed the pilot program into their City annual budget and have continued to use the program effectively.

Mr. Tompert stated his own support for the program and called for the continuation of the program. Mr. Ward stated that they have reached out to numerous organizations that also utilize a similar program, including Baltimore Maryland who service 12 million emergency room trips a year, on how to make the pilot program be self-sufficient. But ultimately, without annual budget or the ability to bill Medicare/Medicaid MFMD would not be able to continue the program.

Mr. Wade asked if the federal government would be able to give additional funds because of how the program serves veterans as well. Mr. Wade stated that they had indeed reached out the federal government including Congressman Andy Biggs about this and it is under current review.

Ms. Alicoate told the board and Mr. Wade that there would be exchange of contact information in case there are any further questions.

6. Hear and discuss presentation from Mesa's Housing and Community Development regarding current programs and services.

Dennis Newburn, City of Mesa Housing Department, came to present on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and how they not only assist in helping people afford housing, but also, they can address issues outside the home and in the neighborhood as well. This ranges from fixing home, education, healthcare, community infrastructure, etc. The fiscal year 2019/2020 CDBG applications are open from December 10th, 2018 to January 15th, 2019. Mr. Newburn stated that all application information will be available on the City web page.

A question was asked if NSP money and the money of sale of property or donated included any CDBG money, to which Mr. Newburn replied no. Mr. Gonzalez asked for clarification concerning the online application. Mr. Newburn was able to answer those effectively. Dr. Moon asked if there was anything being done about the increased number of homeless in east Mesa. Mr. Newburn stated that as residents and services are moving further east, the city and other must be more cognizant about the rise of homelessness in developing areas of the City rather than more focus on central Mesa. This led to a follow-up question concerning if homeless people and other lower income folk would be pushed further towards city center because of the rise of development in the East Valley. Mr. Newburn stated there are programs by both the City and other organizations that follow areas of development to ensure that homelessness does not become systematic.

Mr. Newburn then expanded the discussion to the Point-In-Time (PIT) initiative that will occur on January 22nd, 2019. PIT is a count of homeless people with city minutes and is how the federal government allocates money for related programs. Ms. Alicoate told the board she would forward PIT information and information concerning the Housing Strategic Plan to board members to assist in the recruitment of volunteers that are still needed for PIT. Mr. Newburn was invited to speak at and attend the LBGTQ Community Forum. Mr. Newburn accepted.

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.

Mr. Wade and Mr. Tompert will further expand on this in their meeting. Ms. Alicoate also updated the Chair on Mesa Municipal Court's Community Court Program and their invitation for members of the board to go and observe the process. Ms. Alicoate requested the board give a tentative date and level of interest of attending these court proceedings. Ms. Alicoate will send members of the

board potential dates and times to find suitable times. Ms. Giese suggested that members can go on separate dates to better suit any scheduling issues.

8. Discuss and take action on meeting with various educational institutions to assess strides being made to address diversity issues within schools.

Dr. Michael Garcia with Mesa Public Schools is still scheduled to attend the January meeting.

9. Discuss and take action on the development of community fairs and events such as, but not limited to the Women's Empowerment Event and Youth Peace Building Summit.

Dr. Moon reported that the Women's Empowerment Summit was confirmed for March 9th, 2019 and the venue will be the Mesa Community College community room. The event was projected to be from 9am-3pm. Because of a smaller venue, there would be limited capacity. The Youth Peace Building Summit will be held on April 13th, 2019. Dr. Moon encouraged board members to attend and assist in planning efforts for both events.

10. Discuss and take action on proposed Arizona State Legislation HB 2586.

Mr. Wade provided an overview of HB 2586, a bipartisan bill for a law that is designed to prevent discrimination for LGBTQ peoples in housing, employment and public accommodations. Two Democrats and one Republican proposed the bill in committee, but it did not make it out of said committee on it's second read. Mr. Wade stated that he felt that the State Legislature will not complete this process and that the City of Mesa should. Ms. Alicoate stated that she had spoken with the City of Mesa Government Relations Manager, and that she expects that because the bill did not test the legislative 2018 session that a similar piece of legislation would be introduced in the 2019 legislative session. Ms. Alicoate reported that she will work with the Government Relations Manager to keep abreast of similar bills to report to the board. Mr. Gonzalez asked what some of the reason are that the bill did not make it out of the legislature. Mr. Wade stated that there simply was not enough floor support for the bill to proceed.

11. Discuss and report on new engaged community partners

This was a request by Mayor Giles that the board meets with community partners and identify themselves as members of the Human Relations Advisory Board members. Dr. Moon asked that any board member that contact community partners forward that information to Ms. Alicoate in order to keep record of such meetings and developments.

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

(10a) Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 6PM in the Lower Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

- January 23, 2019 Agenda: Hear and discuss presentation from Mesa Public Schools regarding diversity related programs and/or efforts.

Ms. Alicoate stated that members should expect to update their photo and member bios during the next meeting.

(10b) Indie Lens Pop-Up! Film Screening of RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World

to be held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7PM at Benedictine University Mesa (225 E Main St).

These films are being held January 2019-May 2019. Ms. Alicoate will supply a full schedule of these films.

(10c) Save the Date: Annual Regional; Unity Walk on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at Tempe Beach Park. The festival will start at 4:30PM with the walk to follow at 6:00PM.

Ms. Alicoate asked board members to if they knew any organizations or businesses would be interested in participating in the MLK Jr. Parade as well.

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

Mr. Holmes reported that he volunteered at the Veteran Day Parade.

14. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34PM.

***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.