

---

**CITY OF MESA  
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)  
September 25, 2024 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on September 25, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christiana Hammond, Chair  
Nina Allred  
William Campos  
Sabrina Dobson  
Abram Ellsworth  
Mary Redwing  
Perla Sandberg  
Oscar White  
Jane Williams-Cooper

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rochelle Johns  
Yudit Nonthe Sanchez

**STAFF PRESENT**

Andrea Alicoate  
Elisha Gutierrez  
Mini Salas  
Tara Hall  
Chacho Lopez  
Gabriela Duran  
Candace Cannistraro

**GUESTS**

Sophie Schaeffer

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Hammond called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Yudit Nonthe Sanchez was announced as an excused absence for the meeting.

2. Items from Citizens Present. \*

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the August 28, 2024 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Oscar White and seconded by Sabrina Dobson that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Christiana Hammond, Nina Allred, William Campos, Sabrina Dobson, Abram Ellsworth, Mary Redwing, Perla Sandberg, Oscar White, Jane Williams-Cooper

NAYS - None

4. Hear and discuss a presentation from the Mesa Police Department Community Engagement Division on upcoming programs and events.

Mini Salas, Police Community Relations Supervisor, and Tara Hall, Police Community Partnerships Administrator, with the Mesa Police Department Community Engagement Division provided a presentation to HRAB regarding the Community Relations and Recruitment Division, upcoming programs, and events. Ms. Hall provided an overview of the Mesa Police Department's growth with their engagement efforts, leadership series, community programs, crime prevention programs, and recruitment efforts. She highlighted the Community Building Breakfast which spotlighted community impact and partnerships, specifically with Mesa Public Schools and the SPARC youth programs.

Ms. Salas shared information on the Skillbridge Program and their partnership with the Department of Defense. Through this partnership, military members have an opportunity to intern with an organization such as the Mesa Police Department. Ms. Salas provided an update on Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) and the rebranding of "G.A.I.N. the Mesa Way" exclusive to the City of Mesa. Through the program, community members are invited to host a party in their neighborhood to encourage building relationships with their neighbors with the common goal of community safety. This year there is a transition to a year-round campaign to offer a modality of participation to accommodate those who prefer virtual events.

Ms. Hall highlighted their team's invitation to present their recruitment efforts and spotlight the pathway program at the International Association of Women Police conference in conjunction with the 30x30 Initiative, which aims to improve the experiences and representation of women in policing. Along with increasing the number of women in policing to 30% by 2030. Upon concluding their presentation, Ms. Hall and Ms. Salas answered questions and responded to feedback provided by HRAB.

5. Hear and discuss a presentation from the Community Development Department on the development of the 2025-2029 HUD Consolidated Plan and FY 25/26 Annual Funding Process.

Candace Cannistraro, Deputy City Manager, provided a presentation to the HRAB on the 2025-2029 HUD Consolidated Plan and FY 25/26 Annual Funding Process. She shared an outline of the City of Mesa's needs and goals related to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Fair Housing. She explained that the Consolidated Plan is a planning document required by HUD as a condition of receiving federal funding.

The Plan is developed every 5 years through research, data collection, and community outreach. The planning process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to determine the top housing needs, community development priorities, homeless services, and gaps in supportive services for low- and moderate-income residents. She shared that over the last few months, Mesa residents, non-profit organizations, businesses, and community stakeholders have been encouraged to share their feedback through virtual and

in-person forums, and a community-wide survey. The survey will help identify unmet needs in the community, assist the City in setting priorities and designing effective strategies, and help prioritize activities, programs, and services. A link to the survey will be provided to HRAB members to participate.

Ms. Cannistraro reviewed the City's planning process and explained the distribution process of federal funds to the City and non-profit partners for Mesa residents. She outlined and shared allocations for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) as part of the services the City provides to residents. Upon concluding her presentation, she answered questions and responded to feedback provided by HRAB.

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

(6a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on October 23, 2024, at 6pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1<sup>st</sup> St).

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

Ms. Redwing attended the Mesa Police Department Promotional Ceremony.

Ms. Dobson attended a national webinar on banned books hosted by the American Library Association.

Mr. Ellsworth attended the Growing in the Garden class at the Mesa Library, and the Deeper Waters Tour event at the Mesa Art Center. He volunteered for the Compudopt service event for the Love Your City/9/11 National Day of Service hosted by the City of Mesa and JustServe.

Mr. Campos attended the Mesa Police Community Building Breakfast and participated in the 2024 Doug Carr Memorial Fall Classic golf tournament at Talking Stick Golf Club. He also attended the Religious Academy for Families at the Holy Cross church and a couple of events hosted by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Allred participated in the El Grito event hosted by the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce event, the Mesa Police Community Building Breakfast, and SPARC basketball practices. She also coordinated and volunteered at the Compudopt service event for the Love Your City/9/11 National Day of Service hosted by the City of Mesa and JustServe.

Ms. Hammond attended the Mesa Public Schools Governing Board and volunteered in a Love Your City/9/11 National Day of Service event hosted by the City of Mesa and JustServe.

Mr. White attended a fundraising event for the MANA (Marines, Army, Navy, Airforce) House, a peer-support organization for homeless and formerly homeless veterans.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,  
Director of Diversity & Engagement