
**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
February 26, 2025 Minutes**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on February 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E First St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christiana Hammond, Chair
Sabrina Dobson
Abram Ellsworth
Yudit Nonthe Sanchez
Perla Sandberg
Oscar White

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nina Allred, Vice-Chair
William Campos
Mary Redwing
Jane Williams-Cooper

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Bianca Amin
Delmar Algee
Katie Pollak

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Hammond called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

(1a) Announcement of excused absences.

Nina Allred, Mary Redwing, and William Campos were announced as excused absences for this meeting.

2. Items from Citizens Present. *

No citizens wished to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the January 22, 2025 HRAB meeting.

It was moved by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Ellsworth that the above-mentioned minutes be accepted as written.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Ms. Hammond, Ms. Dobson, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Nonthe Sanchez, Ms. Sandberg, Mr. White

NAYS - None

4. Hear and discuss the presentation from Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) on their programs and services.

Delmar Algee, Office of Homeless Solutions Administrator, provided the HRAB with a presentation on the City of Mesa's Office of Homeless Solutions. He reviewed strategies for addressing homelessness, and specialized programs. Mr. Algee provided an overview of the Off The Street Shelter, Street Outreach team, and Heat Relief initiatives. He emphasized the growth of the division's initiatives and its impact on helping individuals reach stability and self-sufficiency. He outlined the trend of individuals facing homelessness

within Maricopa County and the initiatives the City has in place to address the rising trend of homelessness.

Mr. Algee shared information on community partnerships with local non-profit organizations. Through these partnerships, the team can triage individuals experiencing homelessness through programs involving the Street Outreach Team and Navigation, as well as providing referral assistance based on levels of need to the Off the Street Program, as participants work toward a path of stability. These initiatives include wraparound services such as mental health, substance abuse treatment, and employment services. He also shared updates on the temporary shelter that is scheduled to open in early 2026. The shelter will serve seniors, domestic violence survivors, and families.

Mr. Algee also highlighted the Heat Relief initiative. He detailed the resources such as the Respite/Cooling and Hydration Centers across Mesa along with the local non-profit and faith-based organizations that assist as partners. He provided information on the Portable AC Loan Program, which provides relief from the heat to Mesa residents by lending air conditioning units. Upon concluding his presentation, Mr. Algee answered questions and responded to feedback provided by HRAB.

5. Hear and discuss the presentation from the Citywide Volunteer Coordinator on their programs and services.

Katie Pollak, the Citywide Volunteer Coordinator, provided the HRAB with a presentation on volunteering opportunities and City programs. Ms. Pollak shared information on the various opportunities available for individuals or groups to participate in. Along with City signature events such as the Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day Parade, Celebration of Freedom and Love Your City Day. She highlighted Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a volunteer-based program that connects residents with volunteers who can assist them in completing a home or yard project. She also shared information on the Tool Lending Program, where Mesa residents or community volunteers can borrow tools from the City to complete their home or service projects for free. Upon concluding their presentation, Ms. Pollak answered questions and responded to feedback provided by HRAB. The board gave Ms. Pollak accolades for her work and programs that benefit the community.

6. Hear and discuss plans for the Strategic Planning session in March.

Ms. Andrea Alicoate, Assistant to the City Manager, shared a reminder for the upcoming March meeting which will include reviewing the board's Strategic Planning goals. The session will be held from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm/

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

(7a) Next HRAB meeting will be held on March 26, 2025 at 5:30pm in the Lower-Level City Council Chambers (57 E 1st St).

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

Ms. Sandberg attended the Domestic Violence De Colores and Chicanos por la Causa's event.

Mr. Ellsworth attended the Resurrection Street Ministries tour.

Mr. White attended a fundraising event for a Veteran's family member and participated in the Unity Walk.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Submitted By:



Andrea Alicoate,
Assistant to the City Manager