

**ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes of Special Public Meeting

November 21, 2023

Board Members Present

Karen J. Hartman-Tellez (Chairperson)  
Joshua W. Carden (Vice-Chairperson)  
Moses Sanchez  
Tarah White  
Hon. Carol Berry (Ret.) (via Zoom)

Board Members Absent

Grant H. Frazier

Staff Members Present

Leslie Ross (Executive Director)  
Julie Blumenreich (Legal Counsel)  
Sophia Braham (Liaison)

**A. Call to Order.**

Chairperson Karen Hartman-Tellez called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. The meeting took place in person and via Zoom.

**B. Preliminary Remarks.**

Karen Hartman-Tellez welcomed all in attendance and invited Attorney General Kris Mayes to speak. Attorney General Mayes addressed the Board and the public to explain why she requested the Board call this Special Meeting: to address and combat the rise in hate and antisemitism in Arizona. Attorney General Mayes urged the public to report incidents of hate and antisemitism to the Attorney General's Office or local law enforcement.

**C. Presentations from the Community to Members of the Board regarding antisemitism on college campuses.**

- a. Jewish Community Relations Council: Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman, Board Member. Rabbi Sharfman addressed the Board. She shared information about the rise in antisemitism; perspectives from the Jewish community; the need for increased security at places of worship and other public places; the status of legislatively created grants to assist with security costs; and the dangers of hate speech.
- b. Phoenix Police Department (unable to attend).
- c. Anti-Defamation League: Sarah Kader, Community Manager, ADL Arizona. Sarah Kader addressed the Board. She provided a background on the Anti-defamation League (ADL) and its goals to investigate, advocate, and educate. Ms. Kader also shared information regarding the rise in reported antisemitic incidents nationwide and in Arizona on and off college campuses, including harassment, vandalism, and assaults; the obligation to use speech to condemn hate speech and to speak out against threats against democracy and justice; and urged agencies to take action to work to prevent the use of laws to carry out missions of hate.
- d. Hillel Jewish Student Center at Arizona State University (ASU): Taylor Silverman, Assistant Director of Hillel at ASU and Ben Griffith, ASU student. Taylor Silverman addressed the Board. She provided examples of ways Jewish students do not feel safe on college campuses in Arizona, including an incident where rocks were thrown at a building where Jewish students had gathered and law enforcement had to get involved to escort and advise the students.

Ben Griffith addressed the Board. He shared examples of religion-based hate that he and other Jewish students experienced on the college campus and how it impacted their lives. He requested help so that he and his friends can feel safe.

e. The presenters responded to questions from the Board and Attorney General Mayes.

**D. Call to the Public (taken out of order).**

- a. Bennett Cooper (in person). Bennett Cooper addressed the Board. He discussed the increased need for security at places of worship and concerns from the Jewish community about their safety and the safety of others when they go to places of worship.
- b. Amir Glogua (on Zoom). Amir Glogua addressed the Board. As an Israeli who has lived in Arizona for 12 years, Mr. Glogua described concerns about protests, chanting, and use of speech. He explained a need for education and clarification on speech and protest activity.
- c. Jacob Marson (on Zoom). Jacob Marson is a student at ASU and is the Government Affairs Director with ASU's Undergraduate Student Government in Tempe. He thanked the Board for calling this meeting and would like to see how the Undergraduate Student Government can better protect Jewish students in the future.

**E. Discussion and possible action to create a subcommittee to study and report on the rise in allegations of hate crimes.**

Moses Sanchez moved to create a subcommittee of the Board to address the important issue of hate crimes in our community and to further study the issue and come up with recommendations and possible solutions to address the problems discussed in the Special Meeting. Joshua Carden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**F. Discussion and possible action to develop a joint community event between the Arizona Attorney General's Office, the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Board, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona.**

Tarah White moved to have ACRAB develop a joint community event between the Attorney General's Office, the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Board, the Department of Justice, the FBI, and other community organizations or law enforcement organizations to gather information and work on the process of educating. Joshua Carden Seconded.

Joshua Carden moved to amend the motion for ACRAB to develop a joint community event between the groups listed on the Agenda (the Attorney General's Office, the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Board, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona), and potentially others, to gather information and work on the process of educating. Moses Sanchez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**G. Adjournment.**

Moses Sanchez moved to adjourn the meeting. Joshua Carden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.