MISSION STATEMENT: Our mission is to contribute to the well-being of the general population of our community, including individuals, families, and those at-risk community members through the resources and actions of the Interfaith Council’s membership.

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Additional Items To Be Discussed

3. Effects of Legalization of Marijuana On Communities Lorenzo Higley Community Action Service Advocacy

   Many concerns about upcoming ballot initiatives coming to California. Their organization will help educate your congregations on what the initiatives mean and how to handle the questions surrounding the debates. Please see the attachments of handouts given during the presentation. The La Mesa City Council did vote to approve two new ordinances affirming the law that no sale or cultivation or delivery of marijuana can happen within the city limits. The state has agreed that cities have local abilities to assert these laws and ordinances.

   It was noted in the Reader magazine that there are dozens of dispensaries advertising that are around the city limits. This will be a continuing battle. There are more health concerns than originally known. The human brain does not fully mature until 25 so early users of marijuana can severely slow their own development. There are studies that show links between users and mental illness. Colorado is having many new struggles with their newly adopted laws including driving while under the influence. Also cultivating in California is a huge drain on water resources while we have food farms closing because of the drought.

   Please see the attached handouts associated with this presentation.

4. Housing For Homeless Students Update Rebecca Littlejohn
Background: this program is to support those families with children in the La Mesa-Spring Valley school district that are considered homeless whether that is living in a car, or doubled up at a friend's house. We provide deposit and first month so they can have a stable place to live. The family covers their housing costs month to month this program just provides the kick start for stable housing. The program is going very well but still looking for about 12-15 volunteers that can be trained on how to screen families. Looking for Spanish speaking volunteers also. The bank account is working and has sufficient for maybe 3-4 families right now. Help is also need for ongoing family budgeting mentors to assist the family long term to make good financial decisions.

5. The Homeless in San Diego County         Aaron Landau

This a huge problem in San Diego County, not just the City of San Diego. It affects all the local cities and there needs to be more collaboration to succeed. Aaron made a presentation during public comment time during the last City Council meeting suggesting to the City officials to take this problem seriously and be a spark to gather a coalition of cities, resources, organizations for homeless and concerned citizens that can really contribute to a dialogue of how best to address the situation throughout the county.

Please see attached written remarks and invitation form Aaron to the City of La Mesa leadership

6. Fair Trade Congregations and Schools       Anne Pacheco

In La Mesa & San Diego

Please see attached information on Fair Trade. This is an ongoing effort that is so vital and really gaining momentum throughout the world. It is not just fair trade coffee but so many other products that are showing up more and more in our local stores.

We watched a powerful video on the chocolate trade [http://vimeo.com/20074856]

7. Old Business

8. New Business

   a. The idea of an Emergency Preparedness Fair for the City of La Mesa was brought up for support. Unanimous support from those present. Suggestion made to maybe coordinate our efforts and manpower behind the annual National Night Out event at the La Mesa Police Headquarters in August. This primarily crime focused campaign has an emergency preparedness component as part of the event and maybe we can invite more experts and assist with advertising and displays at the event.
b. More that we can do on homelessness. TO be discussed at future meetings.


10. Adjourn