

Eastern Regional Office
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Connecticut State Advisory Committee to Hold Briefing on
Police Practices and Changing Demographics**

WHAT: Public Briefing of the Connecticut State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 9:30 a.m. EDT

WHERE: Hearing Group Room 1D, Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut

HARTFORD, CT - The Connecticut State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a briefing to look at police practices in response to changing demographics in the state of Connecticut.

Background: The recent 2010 census confirmed that Connecticut has become significantly more diverse over the past decade. In the last decade, the state's Latino and Asian populations increased by 49.6 percent and 64 percent respectively with a 13.4 percent increase in its non-Hispanic African American community. The population increased by an additional 168,532 people, up almost 5 percent.

Working in a true microcosm reflecting America's changing population, Connecticut's state and municipal public safety officers face challenging new issues in responding to their respective communities. The Advisory Committee will consider two issues:

- What are the new challenges for policing as a result of the changing demographics of the state of Connecticut?
- Where there is evidence of civil rights violations, what policies might prevent such violations in the future while also encouraging more consistent and effective law enforcement?

The Committee will hear from elected officials, police officers, advocacy organizations, and government officials. Invited speakers include Legislators Senator Coleman and Representative Holder-Winfield, as well as Curtis Denton of the Connecticut State Data Center, Glenn Cassis of the African American Affairs Commission, Kara Hart of Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Lieutenant Stanley Konesky of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, Michael Lawlor of the Office of Policy and Management, Police Chiefs James Strillacci and Anthony Salvatore, and Yale Law Professor Michael Wishnie.

Deaf or hearing-impaired persons who will attend the briefing and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact Ivy Davis at (202) 376-7655 as soon as possible before the scheduled date of the meeting.