



NEWS RELEASE
February 22, 2017

Contact: Melissa Wojnaroski
(312) 353-8311
mwojnaroski@usccr.gov

**Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting: *Civil Rights and Police Practices in Minnesota***

Minneapolis, MN – The Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public meeting to examine the state’s implementation of The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing recommendations as related to police practices and the potential disparate impact they may have on the basis of race, color, age, religion, or disability. The meeting, free and open to the public, will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 from 8:00 am to 5:15 pm, in the Frey Moot Courtroom at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota School of Law, 1000 LaSalle Avenue, Minneapolis. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact the Midwest Regional Office 10 days prior to the meeting.

Velma Korbel, Chair of the Advisory Committee, said, “Recent incidents have highlighted the need for cultivating collaborative relationships between local police and the communities they protect. The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing has identified strategies for strengthening such police and community relationships. Through testimony, we hope to gather a sense of how these recommendations are being implemented throughout Minnesota. Additionally, we hope to generate new ideas for eliminating the historical and systematic barriers that have impeded productive and collaborative law enforcement practices/policies. I’m hopeful the testimony presented will provide a solid foundation on which the committee can build a comprehensive report.”

The Committee will hear testimony from community members, academics, law enforcement, policy makers, and members of the judiciary. The public will be invited to speak beginning at 4:15 pm. The Committee will accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by April 21, 2017. The Committee will subsequently issue its findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission.

#####

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/usccrgov>.