



NEWS RELEASE

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Missouri Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Meeting: *The Impact of Community and Police Interactions on Individual Civil Rights in Missouri*

Kansas City, Missouri – The Missouri Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a series of panel discussions to examine police and community interactions, and the extent to which disparities in the use of force may persist on the basis of race or color.

The meeting will take place on Thursday August 20, 2015, from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, 3700 Blue Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64310. This meeting is free and open to the public. The event agenda is listed below. Parking will be available at the event free of charge. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Midwest Regional Office prior to the meeting to make appropriate arrangements.

This meeting follows the Committee's initial hearing on the topic that took place in St. Louis, MO in February of this year. Of concern to the Committee is the extent to which disparities may persist in law enforcement practices that undermine equal protection under the law on the basis of race or color. Dr. S. David Mitchell, Chair of the Missouri Advisory Committee, said "The Missouri State Advisory Committee recognizes that issues raised following the events in Ferguson are not unique. As we continue to examine citizen-police interactions and their impact on individual civil rights in Missouri, we look forward to hearing the perspectives of the community and experts in the Kansas City area."

The Committee will hear testimony from community members, law enforcement, government officials, and experts in the field of community and police relations. Members of the public will also be invited to speak during two open forum sessions beginning at 12:00pm and 6:15pm. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to Melissa Wojnaroski at mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by September 20, 2015. The Committee will issue its findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

Agenda

Opening Remarks and Introductions (10:30am-10:45am)

Academic & Government Panel (10:45am-12:00pm)

Dr. Dan Claiborn, Counseling and Forensic Psychologist
Dr. Ken Novak, Professor of Criminology, University of Missouri Kansas City
Mr. Alvin Brooks, President, Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners
Ms. Jean Peters Baker, Jackson County Prosecutor

Open Forum I (12:00pm-12:30pm)

Break (12:30pm-2:00pm)

Community I Panel (2:00pm-3:15pm)

Mr. Damon Daniel, Ad Hoc Group Against Crime
Mr. Herston Fails, 100 Black Men of Kansas City
Ms. Sarah Rossi, ACLU of Missouri
Mr. Montague Simmons, Organization for Black Struggle

Law Enforcement Panel (3:20pm-4:35pm)

Chief Paul Williams, Springfield Police Department
Deputy Chief Robert Kuehl, Kansas City Police Department
Sheriff Mike Sharp, Jackson County Sheriff's Office

Break (4:35pm-4:55pm)

Community II Panel (4:55pm-6:10pm)

Pastor Floyd Wiggins III, Living Word Testament Church
Ms. Gloria Ortiz Fisher, The Westside Housing Organization
Ms. Taylor Holmes, Youth Representative, Urban League
Community Representative, NAACP of Kansas City Missouri (*pending*)

Open Forum II (6:15pm-6:45pm)

Closing Remarks (6:45pm-7:00pm)

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