



PRESS RELEASE

May 8, 2019

Contact: Melissa Wojnaroski

(312) 353-8311

mwojnaroski@usccr.gov

**Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting: *Prosecutorial Discretion***

On Thursday, May 23, in Jackson, the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public meeting to discuss prosecutorial discretion in the state. The Committee will review the impact of prosecutors' discretion on racial disparities in charges, court proceedings, and sentencing within Mississippi's criminal justice system. The Committee will also consider mandatory sentencing and the potential disparate impact that such requirements, paired with prosecutors' discretion, may have on individuals from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

This meeting will take place on Thursday, May 23, 2019, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm CDT, at the Hilton Jackson, 1001 East County Line Road, Jackson, MS 39211. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment session scheduled to begin at 3:00 pm. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by June 23, 2019. To request individual accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend, please contact the Commission's Regional Programs Unit at 312-353-8311 at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Committee Chair Susan Glisson said: "We hope that by listening to a diverse group of stakeholders, we will be able to make meaningful recommendations related to this issue. We are eager to learn as much as possible."

The Committee heard initial testimony on this topic via web conference on April 19, 2019. For meeting records and transcripts of testimony received, please contact the Commission's Regional Programs Unit. The Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).