

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FEDERAL PANEL TO HOLD BRIEFING ON CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

What: Briefing of the Pennsylvania State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

When: Monday, September 8, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

**Where: Monroe County Administrative Center, Room 203
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania**

WASHINGTON, DC – A subcommittee of the Pennsylvania State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public briefing to gather information from government officials and community advocates on the response of communities to changing demographics.

Background: Although the U.S. population is still largely white and non-Hispanic, minority populations are growing 12 times faster than the white population, so that as a country, we are growing both older and more diverse. By 2050, if projections hold, the U.S. will be a "majority minority society"—a country that no longer has a majority of any one racial or ethnic group. These demographic trends have important future implications for the provision of education, health care, and other public services. Communities need to recognize and plan for the challenges related to these changing demographics.

Invited panelists include Robert Gress, Chief Clerk/Administrator for the Monroe County Commissions' Office; Robert Hillman, Chairman of Unity Coalition of the Poconos; Martin Kearney, Education and Community Services Supervisor for the Pennsylvania Humans Relations Commission; John Woodling, Director of the Monroe County Planning Commission; Ray Guernsey, Chief Clerk/Administrator of the Redevelopment Authority of Monroe County; Richard Widdoss, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Monroe County; Alberto Cardelle, Chair of the Health Studies Department of East Stroudsburg University; Patricia Fretz, Chief Clerk/Administrator for the Monroe County Commissions' Office; Melissa Craig, Assistant Director of Community Health Department, St. Luke's Hospital; Ben Lieu, Senior Conciliation Specialist Community Relations Service for the U.S. Department of Justice; Ann Van Dyke, Trainer and Investigator in the Education and Community Services Division of the Pennsylvania Humans Relations Commission; and Sergeant Dennis Wilson of the Pennsylvania State Police.

The briefing is open to the public.

The Pennsylvania State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has established state advisory committees to advise the Commission about civil rights issues in their states that are within the Commission's jurisdiction. More specifically, the committees are authorized to receive reports, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals, public officials, and representatives of public and private organizations in response to committee inquiries; forward advice and recommendations to the Commission; and assist the Commission in its public education and outreach efforts. The committees are comprised of state citizens who serve without compensation.

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