



NEWS RELEASE

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Michigan Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Meeting: Civil Rights and Civil Asset Forfeiture in Michigan

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a series of public meetings during which they will hear testimony regarding the extent to which civil asset forfeiture practices in Michigan may have a discriminatory impact on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or disability status.

The first meeting will take place **Monday May 23rd from 3:00 -4:30 pm EDT via web conference.**

Committee members will hear testimony from national experts and academic researchers. To listen to the online conference by phone (audio only):

- Dial: 888-572-7034
- Conference ID # 1448776

To join the conference online (audio/visual), please register at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/1xloulorqep3&eom>. Online space is limited and will be provided on a first come, first served basis. A public comment period will be observed at the conclusion of this conference.

The second meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 26th at the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics Auditorium, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, MI 48906 from 9:00am to 3:45pm EDT.** The Committee will hear testimony from legal professionals, law enforcement, and government officials in the State. Members of the public will be invited to speak during the two open forum sessions, scheduled to take place at 11:40am and 3:00pm. Committee Chair Donna Budnick said, "Many states are looking at impact of civil forfeiture on its citizens and communities, and how the revenues are being used. With the recent changes in Michigan law, it's important to assess how civil forfeiture is being used in Michigan."

Both meetings are open to the public. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Midwest Regional office 10 days prior to the meeting. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by June 27, 2016. The Michigan Committee will issue 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 and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

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