

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STRATEGY
January 2010

CITY COUNCIL FOCUS AREA

**Housing and Neighborhood
Development**

SERVE THE CUSTOMER

Strengthen
Neighborhoods

- CRC opened 3 fair housing case as follows:
 - Complainant alleges discrimination in terms and conditions of rental based on race (African American)
 - Complainant alleges refusal to rent based on family status
 - Complainant alleges refusal to rent based on disability
- CRC opened 1 public accommodation complaint as follows:
 - Complainant alleges discrimination based on race (African American)
- CRC staff provided 3 fair housing training sessions for Job Bank Participants. A total of 56 persons were trained.

RUN THE BUSINESS

Develop
Collaborative
Solutions

Enhance
Customer
Service

- CRC staff attended 5 police chain of command review hearings as a voting member of the process.
- CRC Executive Director continues to serve as co-chair of the Neighborhood and Communities Subcommittee of the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee.

- CRC Executive Director continues to meet with Men's Empowerment Coalition to address issues impacted young African American males in Charlotte Mecklenburg such as responsible fatherhood, responsible manhood, education, gangs and drugs. In addition, the group met with Senator Kay Hagan, Mayor Anthony Fox, County Manager Harry Jones, Chief of Police Rodney Monroe, Dr. E. Winters Mabry of the Health Department, Sheriff Chip Bailey and his staff, County Commissioner Vilma Leake and paid a site visit to Mecklenburg County Jail North.
- CRC Executive Director attended an Introductory meeting as a board member of the Council on Aging at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Senior Center.
- CRC Executive Director attended a "Meet and Greet" session at International House for groups and organizations that work with Internationals and Immigrants in Charlotte Mecklenburg.
- CRC Executive Director continues to work with the Gang Prevention Coalition and met to review and update the Gang Prevention Tool Kit.
- CRC Executive Director facilitated diversity training for 60 members of the Leadership Charlotte Class XXXI at Johnson C. Smith University.
- CRC Executive Director went before City Councils Restructuring Government Committee to present a preliminary report on the survey results of the Stakeholders Group Survey and has been asked to present the final report on February 25, 2010.
- CRC Executive Director continues to work with District Court Judge Rickeye McKoy Mitchell, Rosalind Jacobs and members of the Teen Mentoring and Violence Committee to create a community mentoring training program for mentors who will mentor adjudicated youth ages 11 through 16.
- CRC Executive Director met with Judge Hugh Lewis, Judge Louis Trosch, and members of the Race Matters Project Steering Committee for the purpose of building a collaboration of stakeholders who will bring their constituencies to the table and partner in the court system's effort to reduce disproportionality and disparities.
- CRC Executive Director began work with the NC State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. The purpose is to examine the theological relationships between the placement of minority children in alternative education programs and their eventual incarceration.
- CRC Executive Director met with Diane English of Community Building Initiative and Maria Handlin of Mecklenburg Ministries to plan and coordinate a community dialogue around jobs in Charlotte Mecklenburg. Mayor Anthony Fox and County Commission Chair Jennifer Roberts have agreed to host the event on March 3, 2010 at 7pm at Friendship Baptist Missionary Church on Beatties Ford Road.
- In collaboration with the City's Engineering Department, CRC staff facilitated a meeting in the Pawtuckett Community to determine residents' opinions and concerns regarding a neighborhood project improvement plan.
- CRC Executive Director attended a community dialogue at the Levine Museum of the New South entitled, "Civility and Bridging Cultures".

- The 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration was very successful. Approximately 3000 persons attended the wreath laying ceremony, holiday parade and the National Observance. This year's event sponsors included Bojangles, Food Lion and Philip Morris USA. \$9,000 was raised to underwrite costs associated with the events.
- CRC Executive Director facilitated diversity training for the YWCA on Park Road. 15 persons were in attendance.
- The Dispute Settlement Program (DSP) mediated 35 cases and conciliated 20 worthless check cases saving 110 criminal justice hours and \$11,000 in taxpayer dollars. \$5,096.82 was recovered for area merchants. \$1,560 in reduced court fees were collected for the state.
- The Dispute Settlement Program (DSP) surveys clients in an effort to maintain and improve service delivery. Prior to mediation, 90% of clients believed going to court was their only option for resolving their dispute, 5% of clients believed their only option was to ignore their problem and 5% of clients believed their dispute could have been resolved by talking with the other party. After mediation, 9% of clients stated they would choose to go to court if they were involved in a future dispute and 0% of clients stated they would ignore future problems while 91% stated they would utilize mediation or talking to solve their problems.



Achieve Positive
Employee
Climate

- CRC staff has participated in 438.5 hours of career development during this fiscal year.