

Community Relations Committee Strategy January 2011

City Council Focus Area: Housing and Neighborhood Development

Serve the customer: strengthen neighborhoods

- CRC opened 1 new fair housing case as follows:
 - Complainant alleges discriminatory statements based on national origin, American.
- CRC closed 2 fair housing cases as follows:
 - Complaint that alleged discrimination in terms and conditions of rental based on race (African American) was closed due to a no cause finding.
 - Complaint that alleged discrimination in terms and conditions of rental based on race (African American) was closed due to a no cause finding.
- CRC staff provided 4 fair housing training sessions to the following organizations/groups: Job Bank Participants (4 sessions). A total of 52 persons were trained.

Run the business: develop collaborative solutions, enhance customer service

- CRC staff attended 6 police chain of command review hearings as a voting member of the process.
- CRC Executive Director attended the YMCA Annual MLK Breakfast at the Westin Hotel. Approximately, 600 members of the community were there to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to discuss ways we may honor his legacy by working together on tough issues as a community.
- CRC Executive Director represented CRC and the National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) and presented the Annual Judicial Award from NAHRW to local civil rights lawyer Julius Chambers.
- CRC Executive Director met with Dr. Bill McCoy and Linda Shipley from the Urban Institute at UNCC to discuss CRC's 3 year experience working with Crossroads Charlotte and CRC's building initiatives on the significance of personal relationships in the ability to effectively address the issue of race with interracial dialogue groups. CRC's Community Theatre-Theatre About Community for both adults and youth were discussed.
- CRC Executive Director facilitated the 2nd meeting of the City of Charlotte Disparity Study Advisory Committee where they reviewed the committee charge and received an extensive progress report from Vernetta Mitchell, consultant with MGT. MGT is the group hired to do research on this work.
- CRC Executive Director attended a Crossroads Learning Network special offering on Building Trust At The Neighborhood Level. At this meeting, the discussion centered on where we as a community are headed considering recent events around schools, the NAACP and the decision by CMS to open schools on the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- CRC Executive Director attended a breakfast at the YWCA Central Carolinas where Dr. Karen Geiger presented her research findings on race relations. The title of the session was "Black

Women, White Women and the Space Between Us” and featured groundbreaking local research exploring female relationships across race.

- CRC Executive Director met with Friday Friends Festival Committee of which he is a member to continue the process to plan for the Annual Friends Festival. Friday Friends is a Crossroads Charlotte’s initiative for building relationships across race, religion, color and culture. The group is in the process of planning for the 5th Annual Program.
- CRC Executive Director was the speaker at the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association meeting which was held at 1st Alliance Church on Monroe Road. He spoke with the group on the work of the CRC, addressed race and diversity in our community and managing conflict across racial, cultural and ethnic lines. 20 people were trained. He attended the meeting as a guest of City Councilwoman Nancy Carter.
- CRC Executive Director met with the planning group that will be responsible for developing a directory of human services for Immigrants, Refugees and Asylees in Charlotte Mecklenburg. The CRC, in conjunction with CBI, Crossroads Charlotte and other community organizations will develop this directory. In addition, CRC staff will be the keepers of the directory and will work to keep it updated and current including having it on the CRC website. CRC and CBI will manage a \$20,000 Ginter Grant to pay for costs associated with the development and maintenance of the directory.
- CRC Executive Director attended the 2011 Annual Male’s Summit co-sponsored by the Men’s Empowerment Coalition, Johnson C. Smith University and the CRC. Speakers at the event included Mayor Anthony Foxx, Mecklenburg Sheriff Chip Bailey, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Chief Rodney Monroe. CRC Executive Director served as Master of Ceremonies for the 4 hour event and spoke to the need to bring together men from diverse social, political, and economic backgrounds to develop a process to organize, plan and execute initiatives that will be designed to improve the lives of young men in our community. Approximately 80 persons from various parts of the community attended this event.
- CRC Executive Director attended the Race Matters for Juvenile Justice Conference held at the Westin Hotel. The purpose of the conference was to bring together local community organizations and representatives of the local judicial community to address disproportionality in our courts and jails. CRC served as a partner and co-sponsor with the planning group for this conference.
- The Dispute Settlement Program (DSP) mediated 63 cases and conciliated 16 worthless check cases saving 158 criminal justice hours and \$15,800 in taxpayer dollars. \$1,343.95 was recovered for area merchants. \$1200 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, 100% of clients believed going to court was their only option for resolving their dispute, 0% of clients believed their only option was to ignore their problem and 0% of clients believed their dispute could have been resolved by talking with the other party. After mediation, 0% 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 100% stated they would utilize mediation or talking to solve their problems.

Develop employees: achieve positive employee climate

- CRC staff has participated in 558 hours of career development during this fiscal year.