

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STRATEGY
May 2011

CITY COUNCIL FOCUS AREA

**Housing and Neighborhood
Development**

SERVE THE CUSTOMER

Strengthen
Neighborhoods

CRC opened 5 new fair housing cases as follows:

- Complainant alleges discriminatory refusal to sell property based on sex (female), family status and national origin (Hispanic).
- Complainant alleges discriminatory refusal to rent based on handicap and race (African American).
- Complainant alleges discriminatory statements based on handicap.
- Complainant alleges discriminatory statements and refusal to rent based on familial status.
- Complainant alleges denial of reasonable modifications based on race (African American).

CRC closed 5 fair housing cases as follows:

- Complaint that alleged discriminatory refusal to rent and denial of housing 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.
- Complaint that alleged denial of reasonable accommodations based on disability was conciliated with Respondent providing Complainant reasonable accommodations.
- Complaint that alleged discrimination in terms and conditions of rental based on race was closed due to a no cause finding.
- Complaint that alleged discriminatory statements based on national origin was closed due to a no cause finding.

CRC staff provided 5 fair housing training sessions to the following organizations/groups: Job Bank Participants; Charlotte University for Internationals; Charlotte Housing Authority; Neighborhood and Business Services; and Home Buying Seminar. A total of 109 persons were trained.

RUN THE BUSINESS

Develop
Collaborative
Solutions

Enhance
Customer
Service

- CRC staff attended 12 police chain of command review hearings as a voting member of the process.
- CRC Executive Director continues to work with CBI and the Mecklenburg Area Partnership for Primary Care Research for the development of a health and human services guide for Immigrants, Refugees, Asylees, and Internationals. The publication will be entitled Accessing Charlotte.
- CRC Executive Director continues to work with the Men's Empowerment Coalition to plan and develop an all-day conference for men to discuss issues around manhood and fatherhood.
- CRC Executive Director has attended several meetings with CRC Membership and the CRC Program Committee to plan for the CRC's 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- CRC Executive Director was the speaker for the Plaza Shamrock Neighborhood Association to talk about the CMS FY12 Budget as presented by Meck Ed (Mecklenburg Citizens for Public Education). CRC Executive Director is a volunteer ambassador for MeckEd to present information on CMS 2012 Budget to various community groups.
- CRC Executive Director attended Teach for America's Pathways to Empowerment Luncheon at the Charlotte Convention Center. The keynote speaker was David Gergen who is a CNN Senior Political Analyst and Director of the Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership.
- CRC in partnership with CBI and Mecklenburg Ministries planned, developed and facilitated a community dialogue discussion and debate between Mayor Anthony Foxx, County Commission Chair Jennifer Roberts, CMS Board Chair Eric Davis and 25 thought leaders from the Charlotte Mecklenburg community to discuss perceived challenges that elected officials have to deal with from a community that is perceived to be divided. An additional meeting for this group is planned for June 8th. A community wide meeting is being planned for June 30th at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church on South Boulevard.
- CRC Executive Director met with Friday Friends Festival Committee to finalize plans for the June 2nd 2011 Friday Friends Festival. CRC is a co-sponsor of this event which is designed to promote positive race relations by providing opportunities for individuals of disparate racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds to forge new individual friendships as a way of promoting better race relations. The Committee is expecting 200 – 300 persons to attend the festival on June 2nd.
- CRC Executive Director was the speaker for a meeting with members of New Christian Outreach Center to talk about the CMS FY12 Budget as presented by Meck Ed.

- During this month, CRC has had several meetings with staff of Corporate Communications to talk about CRC branding, public relations, adjustments to CRC logo and the CRC name. The specifics of the work were shared with Assistant City Manager Eric Campbell on May 25th and plans are to share with the City Manager and his leadership team on June 15th.
- CRC Executive Director, at the invitation of the Mayor, attended the Annual Charlotte Mecklenburg Urban League Dinner at the Omni Hotel.
- CRC hosted the 32nd Annual Police Community Relations Awards to honor CMPD officers who have gone above and beyond to promote positive police community relations in Charlotte Mecklenburg. Over \$14,000 was raised from the private sector to underwrite costs associated with this event.
- The Dispute Settlement Program provided peer mediation training to 23 students at Monroe High School.
- The Dispute Settlement Program (DSP) mediated 110 cases and conciliated 6 worthless check cases saving 232 criminal justice hours and \$23,200 in taxpayer dollars. \$788.91 was recovered for area merchants. \$360 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, 67% of clients believed going to court was their only option for resolving their dispute, 33% 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 33% of clients stated they would ignore future problems while 67% stated they would utilize mediation or talking to solve their problems.



- CRC staff has participated in 592 hours of career development during this fiscal year.