

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STRATEGY
June 2010

CITY COUNCIL FOCUS AREA

**Housing and Neighborhood
Development**

SERVE THE CUSTOMER

Strengthen
Neighborhoods

- CRC closed 1 fair housing case as follows:
 - Complaint that alleged discrimination in terms and conditions of rental based on national origin, Hispanic (Columbian) was closed due to a no cause finding.
- CRC opened 3 new fair housing cases as follows:
 - Complainant alleges discrimination in terms and conditions of rental based on race, (Black) and national origin (Mali).
 - Complainant alleges discrimination in terms and conditions by HOA based on race (Black).
 - Complainant alleges discrimination in terms and conditions of rental based on disability and familial status.
- CRC staff provided 7 fair housing training sessions to the following organizations/groups: Job Bank Participants (4 sessions), Booth Gardens and Tillinghast Place. A total of 53 persons were trained.

RUN THE BUSINESS

Develop
Collaborative
Solutions

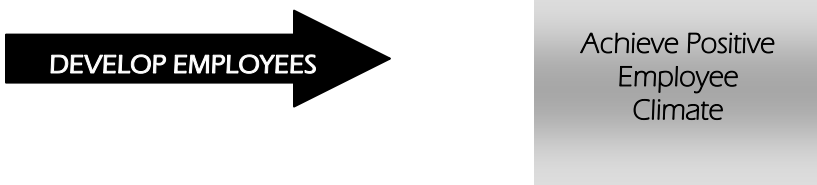
Enhance
Customer
Service

- CRC staff attended 12 police chain of command review hearings as a voting member of the process.

- CRC Executive Director continues to meet with the Youth Violence and Gangs Subcommittee and the Gang Reentry Intervention Team to address gang violence in Charlotte Mecklenburg.
- CRC Executive Director met with Diane English of Community Building Initiative and Maria Handlin of Mecklenburg Ministries to plan, develop and implement community dialogues on Affordable Housing. As a result of that process, 2 community dialogues were held in June. One dialogue was held on June 24th at the Harrison United Methodist Church in Ballantyne. 91 persons were in attendance. The second dialogue was held on June 30th at Covenant Presbyterian Church. 200 persons were in attendance.
- CRC Executive Director went to Greensboro, North Carolina to meet with the planning committee of the National Association of Human Rights Workers to start a process to plan the groups' 63rd Annual Meeting and Training Conference to be held in Greensboro, North Carolina October 26-30, 2010.
- CRC Executive Director met with Peter Minarik and member of the North Carolina Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights. For approximately 4 months, we have conducted research examining a path from school to prison for many ethnic and racial minority children. We anticipate completion of the report in late July 2010 or early August 2010.
- CRC Executive Director worked in conjunction with Neighborhood and Business Services staff to assist in developing a communication strategy for its Housing Locational Forums.
- CRC Executive Director continues to meet with Judge Rickye McKoy Mitchell and the Teen Violence and Mentoring Committee to make plans to address the mentoring needs of adjudicated youth in our community.
- CRC Executive Director attended WTVI and THE FETZR Institute's awards luncheon where CRC was honored for its commitment to advancing the power of love, forgiveness, and compassion to transform lives.
- CRC Executive Director facilitated diversity training at Hope Haven for 15 persons.
- CRC Executive Director served as moderator at the 2010 Men's Empowerment Conference. The all day conference brought together a group of committed men who are working with young men in the community to teach them about fatherhood, being a real man, how to manage conflict and how to respect women.
- CRC Executive Director provided training on the new provisions of the City Stakeholder Process to staff of the Engineering Department.
- CRC Executive Director had a second meeting with staff of Engineering Department, specifically the NECI Bike group, to provide education on the City's new Stakeholder Process.
- CRC Executive Director facilitated 2 diversity trainings at Jacob's Ladder. 30 persons were in attendance.
- CRC Executive Director attended a community coalition meeting sponsored by the Urban League of Central Carolinas for the purposes of discussing "the State of Ethnic Charlotte". The SOEC

project is intended to serve as a barometer of the conditions, experiences, and recommendations of regional people of all socioeconomic status, ages, religions, political affiliation, and sexual orientation/gender identities within major ethnic categories. The report examines ethnic progress and disparities in economics, education, health, civic engagement and social justice.

- CRC Executive Director facilitated a community dialogue for the members of the West Boulevard Corridor and City Staff.
- CRC Executive Director met with HUD staff from Greensboro for the CRC annual Fair Housing Program audit.
- CRC staff provided Peer Mediation Training for 32 students and 2 teachers at Beverly Woods Elementary School.
- The Dispute Settlement Program (DSP) mediated 49 cases and conciliated 30 worthless check cases saving 158 criminal justice hours and \$15,800 in taxpayer dollars. \$4,460.43 was recovered for area merchants. \$1,440 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, 60% of clients believed going to court was their only option for resolving their dispute, 30% of clients believed their only option was to ignore their problem and 10% of clients believed their dispute could have been resolved by talking with the other party. After mediation, 27% 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 73% stated they would utilize mediation or talking to solve their problems.



- CRC staff has participated in 500.5 hours of career development during this fiscal year.