

COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MINUTES

**March 10, 2014 Meeting
2:00 – 3:30**

Community Court Conference Room, 80 Washington St., Hartford, CT

Persons in attendance: Justice Harper (Chair), Deb Fuller (Judicial), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Brian Austin (DCJ), Ernest Green (OCPD), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Preston Tisdale (Governor appointee), Tracey Gove (House of Representatives appointee), Aileen Keays (Consultant – IMRP).

- I. Welcome**
 - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:10pm

- II. Review and approve minutes from December 9th meeting**
 - a. Page 2, #7 – DCJ took no position on the bill
 - b. Minutes approved pending change mentioned above

- III. Membership update**
 - a. Ann Smith (AFCAMP)
 - i. Deb will follow-up
 - b. Arlene Avery (APAAC)
 - i. Will reach-out to President Pro-Tem to recommend her for appointment
 - c. Other
 - i. None

- IV. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
 - a. [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee](#) (CJPAC)
 - i. No update
 - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (RP3) – IMRP
 - i. RP3 will release a report this week on the data it received from CT police departments.
 - ii. RP3 held training on bias in policing in CT. It is a train-the-trainer model so CT residents are now able to provide the training.
 1. REDCJS would like a list of the CT residents that completed the training on bias in policing
 - iii. Quarterly meeting will be held this Thursday at 10AM in LOB

Discussion

 - Police departments interested in how RP3 will benchmark data; do not want it to be with census data because inadequate.
 - c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – IMRP
 - i. CSC has several bills raised this legislative session (please see below).

V. Legislative session

a. REDCJS letter to CGA re: racial impact statements

- i. Letter was finalized, signed by Justice Harper on behalf of the Commission and sent to members of the General Assembly.

b. Raised bills of interest to REDCJS

- i. [H.B. 5063](#) – An Act Concerning the Disclosure of Pardon Applications
 1. No update; BOPP not represented at meeting
- ii. [S.B. 366](#) – An Act Concerning the Erasure of Records in Delinquency and Family With Service Needs Matters – Glenn Cassis
 1. This bill seeks automatic erasure of juvenile records after two-years
 - a. Judicial used to always oppose it because had no resources to perform the task, nor the process for doing so. Last year, given funds to perform it but the bill did not pass. This year, Judicial submitted testimony in support of the bill.
- iii. CSC's bills:
 1. [H.B. 5221](#) – An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed by a Child or Youth and the Sentencing of a Child or Youth Convicted of Certain Felony Offenses.
 - a. This bill would (1) provide for automatic review of sentences served by persons who were under eighteen years of age when they committed their crimes, and (2) provide guidelines for the sentencing of juveniles convicted of Class A, B and C felonies and enact provisions to comply with the United States Supreme Court decision in Miller v. Alabama.
 2. [S.B. 153](#) – An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Certificates of Rehabilitation.
 - a. To enact the recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with respect to certificates of rehabilitation in order to provide eligible offenders with relief from barriers to employment and licensure.
 3. [S.B. 259](#) – An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding the Enhanced Penalty for the Sale or Possession of Drugs Near Schools, Day Care Centers and Public Housing Projects.
 - a. To adopt the recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission regarding the enhanced penalty for the sale or possession of drugs near schools, day care centers and public housing projects.
 4. H.B. 5221 and S.B. 153 had a public hearing last week and are on the Judiciary Committee agenda for today. S.B. 259 is scheduled for a public hearing this Wednesday. [Here](#) is the link to the agenda.

VI. *The Color of Justice*

- a. Planning committee met with Mallory LaPierre of CTJJA to prepare.
- b. Program agenda:
 - i. Welcome and remarks by Justice Harper
 - ii. PowerPoint presentation by CTJJA
 - iii. Screen the 30-minute condensed version of *The Color of Justice*
 - iv. PowerPoint presentation by CTJJA
 - v. Facilitated dialogue with audience to elicit commitment for action
 - vi. Closing remarks by Justice Harper
- c. Will finalize discussion questions once have greater sense of audience.
- d. Marketing – Event poster will be displayed around CCSU and e-mailed to IMRP’s listserv. Would like Commission members to distribute the invitation to their colleagues.
- e. E-mailed Attorney Stone, CCA, to update her on the Commission’s support of *The Color of Justice* initiative. She responded happily but declined the offer to have someone from her office assist with its planning.

Discussion

- Send poster to: local LISTs (tied to each Judicial district and supposed to represent everyone in community – educators, youth service bureaus, probation/parole, etc.); and faith-based community.
- Commission members requested an e-mail that they can forward to their colleagues.
- Suggestion – the Commission can sponsor a screening for just DCJ employees
 - Fran Carino is on-board
 - Can be held in DCJ training room, holds 50-60

VII. Other business

- a. *Community dialogues with OVA*
 - i. Last week, Justice Harper met with Garvin Ambrose. Discussed holding community dialogues to provide information on what OVA does.
- b. *YWCA’s Stand Against Racism*
 - i. Stand Against Racism is a movement of the national YWCA that aims to eliminate racism by raising awareness through this annual event. Every YWCA across country hosts Stand Against Racism the same day each year.
 - ii. New Britain YWCA has decided to focus this year’s Stand Against Racism on children with incarcerated parents, April 25th at 11:30-1pm.
 - iii. Hartford YWCA on Broad Street will host a breakfast during which attendees will take a Stand Against Racism and celebrate the importance for Standing Up for peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all Friday, April 25th, 7:30- 9:30 am.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00pm