

COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MINUTES

September 19, 2011 Meeting

Persons present:

Justice Harper (Chair; Supreme Court Justice), Deb Fuller (Judicial), Andrew Clark (Contractor – IMRP/CCSU), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Andrew Moseley (BOPP), Glenn Cassis (ACCC), Paul Fitzgerald (CT Police Chiefs Association) Maureen Price-Boreland (CPA); Preston Tisdale (Gov. 's appt).

- I. Welcome
 - a. Justice Harper called the meeting to order at 12:44pm. He announced that former commissioner, Preston Tisdale, was formally re-appointed to the commission by Gov. Malloy.

- II. Working Group Updates
 - a. Education, Training and Cultural Competence Working Group.
 - i. As Com. Gove was absent, Com. Cassis reported on the progress of the working group. He noted they were interested in pursuing a project regarding racial profiling and traffic stops.
 - b. Media Working Group – Maureen Price-Boreland
 - i. Com. Price-Boreland noted the working group's efforts to contact Prof Martin at CCSU, but as discussions had stalled, they were instead pursuing contact with Stan Simpson at Weaver High School in Hartford to see if his program and its students would be interested in the media project.
 - c. Pre-Arrest, Prevention, Diversionary and Community-based Programs Working Group – Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt
 - i. Com. DeGraffenreidt noted that the working group finished designing the survey and the next step was to distribute it.
 - d. Legislative Subcommittee Update - Brian Austin and Jeanne Milstein
 - i. No update given

- III. Discussion of Marc Mauer Article [Addressing Racial Disparities in Incarceration](#)
 - a. Justice Harper facilitated a discussion on the article. He began by addressing the recommendations. An active discussion ensued, with all members present participating. As a good portion of the article and its recommendations focused on drug policy, Justice Harper asked members to speak to this issue as well. The

consensus of members present was that the “war on drugs” is a failure and that this was an issue the commission should consider pursuing.

IV. Update on Related Activities

- a. Joint Event with CT NAACP
 - i. The event is postponed until further notice as resources to support it have been difficult to obtain. The tentative theme is “school house to jail house.”
- b. Access to Justice Commission
 - i. It was mentioned that the commission has a broad focus and is chaired by Judge Norko. There was not much to report on as the Commission was in its beginning stages, but members will continue to be updated in future REDCJS meetings.
- c. [Educational Disparity & Minority Youth](#) event at Quinnipiac
 - i. Members were notified of this event, which took place on Sept. 16. Quinnipiac and Yale law schools were co-sponsors of the event. Com. Tisdale reported on the day’s activities. It was noted that [CTN](#) was covering it as well. Com. DeGraffenreidt, who was also in attendance, updated members as well. Given the quality of the presenters, it was suggested that the taped broadcast be shown in schools as well.

V. Other Business

- a. Members were advised of the [CT Advisory Commission for Human Rights](#) meeting on Sept. 20, 2011, beginning at 10am in the Legislative Office Building.
- b. Com. Tisdale questioned the historical profile of race in the United States in regards to the criminal justice system. A discussion ensued which touched upon the topics of the current CT Treasurer being stopped in Hartford and the language that was used to portray the event within the media, as well as Pres. Obama’s birth certificate issue.

VI. Adjourn

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by, Andrew Clark, IMRP at CCSU.