



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**Missouri Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report:  
*The Impact of Community/Police Interactions on Individual Civil Rights in Missouri***

The Missouri Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a report following a series of public meetings on police and community relations in the state. Specifically, the Committee's purpose was to examine the extent to which disparities in the use of force by law enforcement may exist on the basis of race or color. In a series of panel discussions held in both St. Louis and Kansas City, MO, the Committee heard testimony from community advocates; academic experts and legal professionals; local, state, and federal government officials; and individual community members directly impacted by strained police relations in their neighborhoods.

Through this testimony, the Committee identified a number of concerns regarding racially and economically segregated neighborhoods; a lack of sufficient data on police use of force; the impact of implicit bias on law enforcement conduct; financial overreliance on court fines and fees in small, fragmented municipalities; and a lack of standardized, consistent accountability for verified cases of law enforcement misconduct. The Committee also identified a number of recommendations for the Commission's consideration, which may help to remedy some of these concerns moving forward. Committee Chair Dr. S. David Mitchell said, "While the events of Ferguson prompted the Committee's inquiry, testimony at both hearings highlighted concerns of mistrust, particularly between communities of color and law enforcement around the state. Moreover, the Committee's investigation revealed that the seeds of mistrust have historical roots in patterns of segregation, municipal incorporation, and other policies and practices. Although the report is critical, the Committee's recommendations are the result of input from various stakeholders who seek to reduce barriers between individuals and law enforcement. I want to personally thank each of the participants who provided testimony or material to guide the Committee in its work."

Full text of the Committee's report is available at:  
[http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/MOPoliceRelationsReport\\_Publish.pdf](http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/MOPoliceRelationsReport_Publish.pdf)

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

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