



NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Richard Braunstein
(605) 670-0117
Rich.braunstein@usd.edu

**South Dakota Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting: The Subtle Effects of Racism in South Dakota**

Aberdeen, SD – On Friday, March 24, 2017, the South Dakota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public panel session to examine the subtle effects of racism in the state. The meeting will take place at the Community Room of the Public Safety Building, 114 2nd Avenue SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. (CDT). This meeting is open to the public, and parking is available on-site. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office at 303-866-1040 prior to the meeting.

The Committee will hear testimony from law enforcement, representatives of local, state, and federal agencies, tribal officials, community organizations, and advocacy groups. The session will also address the value of use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement, and minority policing that impacts Native Americans and immigrant communities.

Members of the public will be invited to speak during the open forum, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to ebohor@usccr.gov by April 24, 2017. This session is the first of three meetings to be held across South Dakota - over the next 12 months - to address the subtle effects of racism in the state.

After all testimony has been received, the Advisory Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission.

Members of the South Dakota Advisory Committee are: Dr. Richard M. Braunstein, Chair; Charles T. Abourezk, Rapid City; Melanie K. Bliss, Sioux Falls; Marcia N. Bunger, Spencer; Scott D. German, Peever; A. Gay Kingman, Rapid City; Lloyd C. LaCroix, Rapid City; Mike J. Levsen, Aberdeen; Renee B. Olson, Waubay; and Ira W. Taken Alive, McLaughlin.

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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 an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/USCCRGov>