



NEWS RELEASE
March 26, 2018

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**Montana Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting on Border Town Discrimination**

Hardin, MT – **On March 29, in Hardin**, the Montana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing to discuss Border Town discrimination that may have a discriminatory impact based on race, color, disability status, national origin, and/or the administration of justice. The Committee will hear from testimony from law enforcement, criminal justice officials, advocacy groups, and elected officials. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment session.

The briefing will take place on **Thursday, March 29, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MST, at the Hardin Middle School Auditorium, 611 West Fifth Street, Hardin, MT.** This meeting is free and open to the public. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment session. The Committee will accept written testimony submitted to [dbarreras@usccr](mailto:dbarreras@usccr.gov) by April 29, 2018.

Panelists will discuss civil rights of Native Americans and will address such issues as the criminal justice system and the administration of justice. Additional comments may address education, health, housing, employment, human services, economic development, and voting rights.

This study is a continuation of the Committee’s 2016 Border Town discrimination inquiry on civil rights in Montana. The Montana Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

**Border Town Discrimination
March 29, 2018 - Hardin
Agenda**

- I. Smudging Ceremony: 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**
- II. Opening Remarks and Introductions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**
- III. Welcome: Alvin “AJ” Not Afraid, Chairman, Crow Nation, 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**
- IV. Law Enforcement: 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**
 - **Rich St. John**, Chief, Billings Police Department

- **Mike Linder**, Sheriff, Yellowstone County
- V. Break: 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**
- VI. Criminal Justice System: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**
- **Brent Brooks**, Billings City Attorney
 - **Jordan Knudsen**, Hardin City Attorney
 - **Scott Twito**, Yellowstone County Attorney
 - **Jay Harris**, Big Horn County Attorney
 - **TBD**, U.S. Attorney’s Office
- VII. Lunch Break: 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
- VIII. Criminal Justice System (cont.): 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
- **Jose Figueroa**, Bureau of Indian Affairs Crow Police Chief
 - **Allen Fulton**, Rosebud County Sheriff
 - **Robert Simpson**, Big Horn County Sheriff
- IX. Panel Four: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- TBD
- X. Break: 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**
- XI. Open Public Comment Period: 3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**
- XII. Closing Remarks: 4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).