

COMMISSION MEETING
Friday, November 18, 2005
624 Ninth Street, N.W., Rm. 540
Washington, D.C. 20425
9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes of October 31, 2005 Meeting
- III. Announcements
- IV. Commission Briefing: Campus Anti-Semitism
 - Introductory Remarks by Chairman
 - Speakers' Presentations
 - Questions by Commissioners and Staff Director
- V. Staff Director's Report
- VI. Management and Operations
 - Posting September 30, 2005, Report to Senate Appropriations on Website
 - Election Assistance Commission Appointments
- VII. State Advisory Committees
 - Criteria to be Considered When Voting on SAC Reports -
 - Length of SAC Terms
 - Vote on SAC Reports: Arizona & New Mexico
- VIII. Briefing Reports
 - Stagnation of Black Middle Class Briefing Report
 - Voting Rights Act Briefing Report
- IX. Future Briefings
 - Disparity Studies
 - Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
 - Patriot Act
 - Affirmative Action in U.S. Law Schools

X. Future Agenda Items



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U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MINUTES

October 31, 2005

The monthly meeting of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was convened at 2:00 p.m., EDT via teleconference, Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds presiding, Commissioners Jennifer C. Braceras, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor and Michael Yaki were present via telephone.

Also in attendance via telephone at Commission headquarters were: Staff Director Kenneth L. Marcus, Assistant Staff Director Terri Dickerson, Associate Deputy Staff Director Debra Carr, Christopher Byrnes, Pamela A. Dunston, Seth Jaffe, George M. Harbison, Emma Monroig, and Audrey Wright.

Commissioner Assistants in attendance included: Christopher Jennings (via telephone), Lisa Neuder (at Commission headquarters) and Kimberly Schuld (via telephone).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by a unanimous vote, as amended by Chairman Reynolds, adding an announcement section to the agenda immediately after the approval of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The October 7, 2005 minutes were approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Reynolds announced the passing of Rosa Parks, whose refusal in 1955 to give her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Alabama set in motion events that inaugurated a new phase in the civil rights movement. Chairman Reynolds said that Ms. Parks' courage helped to bring about the Civil Rights legislation that transformed the lives of millions of men and women in this country and that she will be missed for a very long time to come. Commissioner Yaki also spoke about Ms. Parks passing and stated how heartened he was to know that her memory is being honored by her lying in state at the Capitol, the first woman to be granted such an honor.

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ISSUES

The Commission passed, by a vote of four in favor (Braceras, Kirsanow, Reynolds & Taylor), two against (Melendez & Yaki) a motion made by Commissioner Taylor, amending the Commission's regulations concerning membership criteria of the State

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Advisory Committees, as well as approving that the regulatory language change be published in the Federal Register for notice and comment. (See attached motion) The Commission passed, by a vote of four in favor (Braceras, Kirsanow, Reynolds & Taylor), two against (Melendez & Yaki) a motion made by Commissioner Taylor, as amended by Chairman Reynolds and Commissioner Taylor, moving that, “[M]embers’ terms on the State Advisory Committees shall be limited for a total duration of not more than ten years, or not more than five two-year terms, unless there is a sufficient basis for extending the appointment beyond ten years. The Staff Director shall, after consultation with the Regional Director, and upon determining that a sufficient basis exists for reappointment, submit such recommendation to the Commission prior to the vote by the Commission on the rechartering of the State Advisory Committee.” The Commission passed, by a vote of four in favor (Braceras, Kirsanow, Reynolds & Taylor), two against (Melendez & Yaki) a motion made by Chairman Reynolds, moving that, “[O]ld SAC rechartering packages pending Commission approval consistent with the prior selection policy be deemed cancelled, and that the Staff Director direct Regional Directors to replace them with the new rechartering packages consistent with the new selection criteria when the revised membership regulations become final.”

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m., EDT.

MOTION TO AMEND THE COMMISSION'S REGULATION
REGARDING MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA OF STATE ADVISORY
COMMITTEES (SACs)

I move that the Commission approve the following changes to the regulatory language revising the existing provision regarding SAC membership requirements. I also move that the Commission approve the following regulatory language to be published in the Federal Register for notice and public comments and that all necessary background information be inserted in the notice as required by the Federal Register.

Proposed regulation replacing 45 C.F.R. 703.5:

“§ 703.5 Membership

(a) Subject to exceptions made from time to time by the Commission to fit special circumstances, each Advisory Committee shall consist of at least 11 members appointed by the Commission. Members of the Advisory Committees shall serve for a fixed term to be set by the Commission upon the appointment of a member subject to the duration of Advisory Committees as prescribed by the charter, provided that members of the Advisory Committee may, at any time, be removed by the Commission.

(b) No person is to be denied an opportunity to serve on a State Advisory Committee because of race, age, sex, religion, national origin, or disability. The Commission shall encourage membership on the State Advisory Committee to be broadly diverse.

(c) State Advisory Committee members shall represent a diversity of skills and experiences, including, but not limited to, social science research, legal research and analysis, and statistical analysis. Educators, lawyers, business and labor leaders, social scientists, researchers, and news gatherers are some of the more important professions or activities or avocations that should be represented on the State Advisory Committees. The State Advisory Committees should also contain people knowledgeable of the State's governmental machinery and public service sector, and people involved in and

drawn from such influential sectors as business and financial communities, organized labor, the news media, and religious groups.

(d) Each State Advisory Committee should contain men or women who have demonstrated an interest in the civil rights issues of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, and national origin and in voting rights.

(e) Both political parties should be represented in each State Advisory Committee.”

Finally, I move that the proposed regulation supersedes any prior inconsistent guidance regarding the State Advisory appointment process and that the Staff Director may make any conforming amendments necessary to any existing guidance.

STAFF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 19 – October 21, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL UNIT

OSD/CAU Activities

Statutory Report Transmitted: On September 28, the Commission transmitted printed copies of the OCRE statutory report, *Federal Procurement After Adarand*, to Congress and the White House.

Report Submitted: On September 30, the Commission, in compliance with the recent Senate Appropriations bill, submitted its report to Congress concerning the status of ongoing reforms at the Commission.

Report Transmitted: On October 7, the Commission transmitted printed copies of the OGC report, *Broken Promises: Evaluating the Native American Health Care System*, to Congress and the White House.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

OGC Program Activities

Minority Representation and Classifications the Census: The Commission approved this project as an FY06 report for OGC. At the August meeting the report was converted into a briefing. OGC is currently conducting research for this briefing, including relevant speakers to invite.

Review of Elementary and Secondary School Desegregation: The Commission approved this project for OGC as the Commission's statutory report for FY07. OGC is currently reviewing a project proposal prepared by the Southern Regional Office on behalf of the South Carolina Advisory Committee. The purpose of this South Carolina Advisory Committee project is to support OGC with its FY07 School Desegregation project and to provide a status report on the unitary status of the local school districts in South Carolina subject to judicial intervention. OGC has begun reviewing the scope and methodology of the School Desegregation project incorporating the work proposed by the South Carolina Advisory Committee.

OGC Legal Counsel Activities

Proposed Regulation Governing Membership on State Advisory Committees: OGC prepared and submitted a proposed regulation governing selection of State Advisory Committee members to the Federal Register for public notice and comment. A majority of Commissioners approved this proposed regulation on October 31.

Zero-Cost Liquidation Appropriations: OGC is currently waiting for OMB to prepare a zero-cost liquidation appropriation to remedy deficiencies in the FY 2002 and FY2004 accounts.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT

Press Relations: There was not a predominant source of Commission-related news during the month.

During the reporting period, the Commission issued three press releases:

1. *USCCR Mourns Passing of Rosa Parks (10-25-05)*
2. *Congress Appoints Arlan Melendez to USCCR (10-14-05)*
3. *USCCR to Conduct Briefing on Voting Rights Act (10-6-05)*

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS EVALUATION

Complaints Processing: During the reporting period, OCRE received 162 written complaints, 1 congressional complaint, 6 walk-in complaints, 22 E-mail complaints, 4 facsimile complaint, and 127 telephone complaints. In total, staff processed 322 complaints during the reporting period. As of October 28, 2005, the backlog of written and telephonic complaints was zero.

Civil Rights Studies

Voting Rights Act: OCRE staff revised a concept paper and proposed project milestone dates.

Funding Federal Civil Rights Enforcement: 2006: The report has been posted to the Commission's web site. The Administrative Services and Clearinghouse Division has distributed the report to Congress. Copies of the report are being mailed to affected agencies that participated.

Voting Rights Act Briefing Report: Staff is now drafting a briefing report, which so far consisting of an introduction, summary of proceedings, panelist statements, findings and recommendations. Should the report be approved by the Commission, staff also will include Commissioner's statements.

Disparity Studies as Evidence of Discrimination in Federal Contracting Briefing: Staff has invited four panelists for the December 16 briefing on disparity studies. The four who will participate are: Dr. George LaNoue, Professor of Political Science, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Director, Project on Civil Rights and Public Contracting; Dr. Constance Citro, Director, Committee on National Statistics, the National Academies of Science; Professor David G. Blanchflower, Department of Economics, Dartmouth College; and Mr. Roger Clegg, Esq., Center for Equal Opportunity.

Educational Effectiveness of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Briefing: Staff has identified some potential panelists and is in process of developing a briefing book.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

Administrative Services and Clearinghouse Division

Auditing Services: Staff has completed procurement of auditing services for FY 2005

Transition to new Accounting Firm: Staff continues to work with General Services Administration's to transition to the new accounting system. Also, staff in headquarters was provided training for the new travel management system and the accounting/reporting system.

Closeout of Fiscal Year: Staff completed all procurement transactions related to close out of the fiscal year. Staff continues to work on any issues related to completion of closeout such as reporting of procurement transactions, completing receiving reports, completing property documentation, and

End of Year Closeout Activity: Staff has spent a great deal of time during this reporting period on activities related to closeout of the fiscal year. Staff participated in numerous meetings discussing a variety of issues such as deobligation of funds on unused requisitions, deobligating unused funds on purchase orders, completion of receiving reports, accrual of expenditures, and validating credit card charges, etc.

Library Statistics: The library staff received 361 telephone inquiries. They completed 105 simple reference requests and performed 53 research projects of various sizes. An additional 176 research requests were completed utilizing automated search services.

Publication Statistics: A total of 309 requests for publications were received this period; 841 publications were mailed and 54 different publications were requested; 217 requests were received by email and one congressional request was received for publications this reporting period. *Getting Uncle Sam to Enforce Your Civil Rights, Compilation of Civil Rights Laws, Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country, Federal Procurement After Adarand, and Catalog of Publications* were our most requested publications. Currently, there are 25 requests for publications in process.

Budget and Finance Division

Administrative Payments: GSA continues to process the Commission's travel vouchers and authorizations. We anticipate using GSA's new travel system 1 December 2005.

- a. The transition to GSA's automated travel system is still incomplete. We continue to experience difficulties in our efforts to enter travel data into E-Gov Travel. All travel orders are submitted to GSA for data entry.

Fiscal Administration: The Commission is operating under a Continuing Resolution from the period October 1, 2005 through November 2, 2005, a period of 33 days. The amount that has been obligated for FY 2006 operating expenses for the period of the Continuing Resolution is \$68,092. Division Heads are encouraged to spend at a minimum level so as not to infringe upon the prerogative of Congress to set full year funding levels.

- a. ASCD can now enter PRs into the automated system and we are able to extract pre-established reports from Financial Management Information System (FMIS).
- b. BFD can pull daily status of funds report from FMIS.

BFD continues to process FY 2005 financial closeout documents as well as processing FY 2006 documents.

BFD anticipates having a full time Budget Analyst on board no later than 1 December 2005.

Human Resources Division

Staffing: The vacancy announcement for the Human Resources Assistant position in the Office of Management was posted. Applications are being review by the selecting official. The Best Qualified lists for the Administrative Support Assistant position, in ASCD has been submitted to the selecting official.

Employee Counseling: Staff members counseled several employees in selected areas of health benefits, thrift savings, volunteer leave program, catch-up TSP contributions and leave and pay administration.

REGION I EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

CONNECTICUT

Current SAC Project: Police-Community Relations and Treatment of Minority Students and Parents in Public Schools in Bridgeport

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: 4/25/00

Community Forum Held: 5/24-25/00

Last SAC Meeting: 10/8/04 (multi-state conference call)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The Committee is reassessing its project plans and is now considering a project that will address the achievement gap in education for minority students.

DELAWARE

Current SAC Project: Equal Treatment Under Sentencing Reforms in Delaware

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 11/30/03

Status: The Committee is rebuilding and will have to reassess this project and all other activities.

Activity: The SAC's publication entitled *Delaware Citizens Guide to Civil Rights and Supporting Services* is a comprehensive listing of government and private civil rights agencies and organizations, and supportive social service agencies. The SAC chairperson has provided information to the New Jersey SAC, which plans to develop a civil rights directory.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/8/04 (multi-state conference call)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: A subcommittee participated in the multi-SAC teleconference briefing on the propriety of using Native American imagery for sports mascots. Further action on this matter, if any, will be determined.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Pending Report: A report summarizing presentations made before the Committee in March 2001 on improving access to financial opportunity is undergoing a review for possible update.

Current SAC Project: Civil Rights Problems Facing the District of Columbia: Solutions for the Next Century

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 2/29/00

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: 4/12/00

First of Three Forums Held: 3/15/01

Status: The Committee is rebuilding and will have to reassess this project and all other activities.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/8/04 (multi-state conference call)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 10/20/05

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The Committee has drafted its "Citizens' Guide to Civil Rights," which is a handbook designed to advise DC residents of contact information for local and federal offices that receive civil rights complaints and concerns. Members of the committee are revising and researching the Guide in anticipation of a fall release of the Guide. The Committee is planning a briefing in October on foreclosure scams that target minorities and the elderly.

MAINE

Current SAC Project: Racial and Ethnic Profiling and Harassment in Maine

Project Proposal to SAC: 9/03

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: 11/24/03

Forum Held: 4/6/04

Status: Report has been approved by SAC members and has undergone affected agency, legal sufficiency, and defame and degrade review.

Last SAC Meeting: 5/23/05 (conference call)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined.

*Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The report, *Racial and Ethnic Profiling and Harassment in Maine*, is currently under review for incorporation of comments from legal sufficiency and defame and degrade reviews. Following the release of the report, the Committee will further explore the option of working with the Massachusetts SAC to produce a multi-SAC, New England-focus fact-finding study on educational provisions by state government for the English language learner. The Massachusetts SAC held a briefing and heard testimony on the subject at its April 6, 2004 forum. Information gathered from the briefing and testimony will form the basis of the study, which will update the already collected information and extend the focus to other New England states, which have a history of sharing educational policy ideas with Massachusetts.*

MARYLAND

Published Report: City Services, Public Safety, and the Justice System—Do Korean American Store Owners in Baltimore, Maryland, Get Equal Treatment?

SAC Approved Report: 1/8/03

Report Approved for Publication by Commissioners: 7/04

Report Released: 8/04

Current SAC Project 2: Civil Rights Issues in Maryland's Small Towns and Rural Areas: Forums in Southern, Western, and Eastern Shore Counties

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 9/15/99

Project Proposal Revised by SAC: 7/11/00

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: 10/2/00

First of Three Forums Held: 3/31/01

Second of Three Forums Held: 6/23/01

Status: The Committee is rebuilding and will have to reassess this project and all other activities.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/8/04 (multi-state conference call)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: A subcommittee participated in the multi-SAC teleconference briefing on the propriety of using Native American imagery for sports mascots.

MASSACHUSETTS

Current SAC Project: Voluntary School Desegregation: Lessons from Lynn, Massachusetts

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 10/9/03

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: 11/24/03

Status: Report draft on forum in progress.

Last SAC Meeting: 6/9/04 (forum)

Next SAC Meeting: To be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: A report draft is currently in progress. The SAC envisions producing a report for public and press release. Once the report is approved and release, the Committee will further explore the option of working with other New England SACs to produce a multi-SAC, New England-focus fact-finding study on educational provisions by state government for the Limited-English-Proficient learner. The Massachusetts SAC held a briefing and heard testimony on the subject at its April 6, 2004 forum. Information gathered from the briefing and testimony will form the basis of the study, which will update the already collected information and extend the focus to other New England states, which have a history of sharing educational policy ideas with Massachusetts.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Current SAC Project: Access to Health Care by Limited-English-Proficient and Hearing-Impaired Persons

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 8/21/03

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: 11/6/03

Forum Held: 12/4/03

Report Approved by SAC: 9/23/04

Report Sent to OSD: 1/19/05

Report Approved by Commissioners:

*Status: The report, *Language and Access to Health Care: Easing Barriers in New Hampshire*, has received Commissioner approval and has been published.*

Last SAC Meeting: 12/4/03

Next SAC Meeting: To be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Once the SAC recharter is approved, the Committee will further explore the option of working with the Massachusetts SAC to produce a multi-SAC, New England-focus fact-finding study on educational provisions by state government for the Limited-English-Proficient learner. The Massachusetts SAC held a briefing and heard testimony on the subject at its April 6, 2004 forum. Information gathered from the briefing and testimony will form the basis of the study, which will update the already collected information and extend the focus to other New England states, which have a history of sharing educational policy ideas with Massachusetts.

NEW JERSEY

Current SAC Project: Representation of Asian Americans in the New Jersey State Government Work Force

Revised Statement of Concern to Commissioners: 6/20/03

Final Statement of Concern to RPCU: 9/30/03

Status: The SAC heard from the designee of Governor McGreevy at its May meeting in Trenton.

Last SAC Meeting: 6/9/04 subcommittee meeting to plan consultation to be held in Asbury Park to discuss how the massive school construction program can be used to revitalize communities throughout the state.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Dissemination of the statement of concern is complete. The Committee proposes scheduling the consultation in early 2005.

NEW YORK

Current SAC Project: The Administration of Justice for Same-Sex Couples: Civil Rights Implications of Marriage.

Project Proposal Approved by SAC:

Project Proposal Approved by OSD:

Forum Held:

Report Approved by SAC:

Report Submitted to OSD:

Report Approved by Commissioners:

Status: The SAC membership of the previous charter has approved the current project activity idea. A project proposal is in preparation.

Last SAC Meeting: 8/19/04 (conference call)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Once the Committee is rechartered, its members will decide whether to continue with the same-sex marriage project idea or adopt a different idea altogether.

PENNSYLVANIA

Current SAC Project: State and Local Efforts to Eliminate Barriers to Economic Opportunities for Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses (M/WBEs) in Pennsylvania

Proposal Approved by SAC: 7/9/98

Proposal Approved by OSD: 7/28/98

Forum Held: 1/14/99

Report Approved by SAC: 9/6/01

Editorial and Legal Sufficiency Review Completed: 5/22/02

Report Approved for Publication by Commissioners: 6/21/02

Report Released: Press conferences were held on 8/5/02 (Philadelphia), 12/11/02 (Harrisburg), 6/26/03 (Pittsburgh)

Status: Current activity is being reassessed.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/8/04 (multi-state conference call)

Next SAC Meeting: end of September

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The committee hopes to meet in late September to discuss conducting information-gathering briefing by either the full committee or subcommittee to aid their research on the three potential projects under consideration: (1) racial disparities in the juvenile justice system; (2) immigration issues in Pennsylvania; (3) the adequacy of services being provided to disabled students in the public school system. It will select one of these three at its next teleconference and develop a project proposal.

RHODE ISLAND

Current SAC Project: The Disparate Treatment of Minority Youth in Rhode Island (tentative title)

Status: The rechartered committee unanimously decided its next project would be an investigation into youth and education. Two subcommittees were created to consider (1) disparities in education and (2) disparities within the justice system.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/25/05 (subcommittee meeting)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: November 15 2005.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: A subcommittee interviewed government officials and advocate group representatives about the problem of foreclosure rescue scams in Rhode Island. and (2) release its Citizens' Guide to Civil Rights. Participants in the briefing included the Attorney General, the Mayor of Cranston, the Executive Director of the Urban League of Rhode Island, and an analyst from the National Consumer Law Center. At its November conference call, the full committee will be briefed on the subcommittees activity and will determine whether the topic warrants additional action by the committee.

VERMONT

Current SAC Project: Racism in Vermont Communities

Proposal Approved by SAC: 11/01

Proposal to HQ: 12/20/01

Proposal Approved by OSD: 3/19/02

Town Hall Meetings Held: 11/20/02 (Burlington), 2/14/03 (using six VT Interactive TV sites), and 4/9/03 (Montpelier)

Report Approved for Publication by Commissioners: 10/17/03

Report Released: 10/30/03

Status: Current activity is being reassessed.

Last SAC Meeting: 06/28/05

Projected Next SAC Meeting: December 2005.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The committee conducted a conference call briefing with Stacie Blake who presented information on growing problems for refugees and immigrants in Vermont. The committee voted to draft a statement of concern about the issue and to meet with local and state legislators to determine whether the committee should conduct a more detailed inquiry into issues regarding refugees and immigrants in Vermont.

VIRGINIA

Current SAC Project 1: Unequal Justice: Treatment of African Americans in the Virginia Criminal Justice System—Revisited

Target Date for SAC Approved Project Proposal: 4/04

Target Date for Project Proposal Approved by HQ: 5/04

Status: The Committee is rebuilding and will have to reassess this project and all other activities

Last SAC Meeting: 10/8/04 (multi-state conference call)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined

Projected Activity in Next 12 Months: The Committee met in late September to discuss developing a new project proposal and is looking at potentially developing a new project that includes the achievement gap for minorities in elementary education. A subcommittee participated in a multi-SAC teleconference briefing on the propriety of using Native American imagery for sports mascots.

WEST VIRGINIA

Current SAC Project: Coping with Police Misconduct in West Virginia

Report Approved by SAC: 10/03

Report to HQ for Legal Sufficiency and Editorial Reviews: 12/03

Report Approved for Publication by Commissioners: 1/04

Status: Over the past decade, the SAC has issued three reports on state civil rights issues.

Significant portions of each report have focused on police-community relations. The SAC's most recent report was issued in June 2003. A select committee of the state legislature held a hearing on police-community relations. Following the hearing, the SAC's views on review boards were solicited. The SAC submitted a background paper describing current methods of disciplining police officers. The SAC voted to issue this more detailed report. The SAC plans to meet and discuss the most effective method for disseminating this report.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/8/04 (multi-state conference call)

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The committee is now discussing a potential project that would survey civil rights issues in West Virginia—both problems and solutions. The committee will meet to discuss a timeline for the project and determine how it will gather the requisite information for a report it anticipates publishing at the end of 2005.

REGION II
SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

FLORIDA

Current SAC Project 1: Equal Education Resources for Migratory Children

Proposal Approved by SAC: 7/05

Proposal Approved by OSD: 8/05

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 12/05 (delayed)

Status: Two county school districts with high concentrations of migrant children, Collier (Naples) and Hillsborough (Tampa), are the focus of the study. Three “Migrant schools” and three “Matching schools” have been identified in each district. Survey data requested from each school and interviews with building principals has been completed. Planned site visits by members of the Florida Advisory Committee to selected schools in Collier County have been delayed due to hurricanes. The completion of the project is on hold until schools in Collier County are again operating normally.

Current SAC Project 2: Unitary Status of Public School Districts in Florida

Proposal Approved by SAC: 7/05

Proposal Approved by OSD: 8/05

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 1/06

Status: The Regional Office is completing its research on the unitary status of the local school districts in the State of Florida once subject to court jurisdiction. Of the 37 school districts in the State ever subject to court jurisdiction, the SRO has confirmed that 22 have obtained unitary status. Those school districts without unitary status are being contacted by the SRO for a statement regarding their intent to achieve unitary status. The SRO is in the process of preparing a report.

Last SAC Meeting: 09/08/05 (teleconference)

Projected Next Meeting: 1/06 (to approve school desegregation report)

Projected Activities in the Next 12 Months: (1) submit report to Commission on equal education resources for migratory children, (2) submit report to Commission on unitary status of public school districts in Florida, and (3) submit report to Commission on the impact of unitary status.

Re-Charter Activities: The Florida Advisory Committee was last re-chartered on September 24, 2002.

GEORGIA

Current SAC Project: Unitary Status of Public School Districts in Georgia

Proposal Approved by SAC: 9/09/05

Target Date for Proposal Approved by OSD: 9/05

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 2/06

Status: A project proposal was submitted to OSD on October 13, 2005. The Regional Office has begun its research on the unitary status of the local school districts in the State of Georgia once subject to court jurisdiction.

Last SAC Meeting: 09/09/05 (teleconference)

Projected Next Meeting: 2/06 (to approve school desegregation report)

Projected Activities in Next 12 months: 1) submit report to Commission on unitary status of public school districts in Georgia, and (2) submit report to Commission on the impact of unitary status.

Re-Charter Activities: Nothing to report.

KENTUCKY

Current SAC Project 1: The Achievement Gap between African American Students and White Students in Large Urban Areas in Kentucky

Proposal Approved by SAC: 7/05

Proposal Approved by OSD: 8/05

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 2/06 [change]

Status: The achievement gap between minority students and non-minority students is being studied in four urban school districts with high concentrations of minorities, Elizabethtown, Hopkinsville, Lexington, and Paducah. (Louisville has been dropped from the study because of its unique attendance pattern.) Data collection from the four school districts is continuing.

Current SAC Project 2: Unitary Status of Public School Districts in Kentucky

Proposal Approved by SAC: 9/05

Target Date for Proposal Approved by OSD: 9/05

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 2/06

Status: A project proposal was submitted to headquarters for OSD approval on August 26, 2005. In anticipation of approval by OSD, the Regional Office has begun its research on the unitary status of the local school districts in the State of Kentucky once subject to court jurisdiction.

Last SAC Meeting: 9/02/05 (Louisville, Kentucky)

Projected Next Meeting: 1/06 (to approve achievement gap and unitary status reports)

Projected Activities in Next 12 months: (1) submit report to Commission on education gap in Kentucky, and (2) submit report to Commission on unitary status of public school districts in Kentucky.

Re-Charter Activities: Nothing to report.

NORTH CAROLINA

Current SAC Project: Title I Funding to Local Schools by Public School Districts

Proposal Approved by SAC: 4/01

Proposal Approved by OSD: 4/01

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 12/05 [change]

Status: The Regional Office has completed its fact-finding study on Title I funding by public school districts to local schools, and the Advisory Committee approved the report at its September 28, 2005, meeting. The Southern Regional Office is referencing the report in preparation for submission to OSD.

Current SAC Project 2: Unitary Status of Public School Districts in North Carolina

Proposal Approved by SAC: 9/28/05

Target Date for Approval by OSD: 10/05

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 4/06

Status: On October 27, 2005, the SRO submitted a proposal to OSD to study the unitary status of local school districts in North Carolina.

Last SAC Meeting: 9/28/05 (teleconference)

Projected Next Meeting: 3/06 (to approve school desegregation report)

Projected Activities in Next 12 months: (1) submit report to Commission on Title I Funding to local schools, and (2) submit report to Commission on unitary status of public school districts in North Carolina.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Current SAC Project: Unitary Status of Public School Districts in South Carolina

Proposal Approved by SAC: 9/05

Proposal Approved by OSD: 9/05

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 12/05

Status: The Regional Office has completed its fact-finding study on the unitary status of public school districts, and the Advisory Committee approved the report at its upcoming September 22, 2005, meeting.

Last SAC Meeting: 9/22/05 (teleconference)

Projected Next Meeting: 3/06 (to approve study on impact of unitary status)

Projected Activities in Next 12 months: (1) submit report to Commission on unitary status of public school districts in South Carolina,
(2) submit report to Commission on the impact of unitary status.

TENNESSEE

Current SAC Project: Unitary Status of Public School Districts in Tennessee

Target Date for Proposal Approval by SAC: undetermined

Target Date for Proposal Approved by OSD: 11/05

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 5/06

Status: In the absence of an active Advisory Committee in Tennessee, the Southern Regional Office independently begun research on the unitary status of the local school districts in the State of Tennessee once subject to court jurisdiction.

Last SAC Meeting: 03/05/03 (teleconference)

Projected Next Meeting: undetermined

Projected Activities in Next 12 months: (1) submit report to Commission on unitary status of public school districts in Tennessee.

Other Items of Interest to the Staff Director

Student Interns: The Southern Regional Office is partnering with the Central Regional Office to provide coordinated support to OGC for its school desegregation study. The Southern Regional Office will assist the Central Regional Office in its study of the unitary status of school districts in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

REGION III
MIDWESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

ILLINOIS

Current SAC Project: Health Disparities Among Chicago's Minority Communities

Target Date for Project Proposal Approval by SAC: To be determined

Report Approval by SAC: To be determined

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: To be determined

Last SAC Meeting: 9/28/05

The Committee held a conference call on September 28 and finalized the agenda for the November 3 briefing on health disparities in Chicago.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 11/3/05

Projected Next Activities in Next 12 Months: Briefing report

INDIANA

Current SAC Project: Implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for the Disabled Community in Indiana

Target Date for Project Proposal Approval by SAC: To be determined.

Report Approval by SAC: To be determined

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: To be determined

Last SAC Meeting: 2/26/04

The Committee held a briefing on 2/26/04 in Indianapolis regarding issues facing Indiana's disabled communities with Sheri Caveda, executive director, Fifth Freedom; Kathy Lyons, advocacy coordinator, League for the Blind and Disabled; and Julie Vaughn, project director, Governor's Council for People with Disabilities. The Committee voted to investigate the disability issue.

Chair Hollis Hughes appointed four members to a working group to begin planning for the SAC's next report on the challenges facing Indiana's disabled communities at voting booths. A meeting of the working groups will be established.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 11/05 (conference call)
Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Community forum

The SAC is currently being re-chartered.

MICHIGAN

Current SAC Project: Civil Rights Issues Facing the Hispanic Community Metropolitan Detroit
Target Date for Project Proposal Approval by SAC: 09/15/05
Report Approval by SAC: To be determined
Target Date for Report Review by HQ: To be determined
Re-charter to OSD 1/13/04

Last SAC Meeting: 9/15/05 (conference call)

Committee members held a conference call on September 15, 2005, and discussed the project proposal for the community forum, "Hispanic Communities in Detroit: Growth and Challenges." Members discussed issues addressed in the proposal and unanimously agreed to also include the issues of the Hispanic political base in Detroit, business opportunities, and the representation of the community in local news media report. Members unanimously agreed to add names to the list of potential list of speakers distributed to them via email. The project proposal was unanimously accepted 7-0.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined.
Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Community Forum or Briefing
Civil Rights Developments: The Michigan Advisory Committee continues to monitor the implementation of the governor's Benton Harbor Task Force recommendations. The Task Force released its report and made numerous recommendations regarding the following areas: economic development/housing/job training, education, health awareness and improvement, police community relations, diversity with inclusion, parenting and family, criminal justice, recreation/arts/culture, communication, and faith based community. The Task Force recommended the permanent establishment of Citizens for Progressive Change (CPC), work groups for these different areas made up of concerned Benton Harbor citizens, and suggested they work closely with a number of other organizations including the Council for World Class Communities (CWCC). CWCC executive director Mark Mitchell has been nominated for the Michigan Advisory Committee and will be able to provide further monitoring assistance as soon as the Commissioners approve his nomination.

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights, as part of its renewed commit to Benton Harbor following the incident of 2003, opened a branch office in the city on December 14, 2004. The office should improve communication between the residents of the city and the state agency that accepts civil rights complaints for review. In addition, the Council for World Class Communities (CWCC) in Benton Harbor continued its work of inducing businesses to work cooperatively with

the citizens and government of Benton Harbor. CWCC has held numerous events including a Youth Summit, the Connecting the Communities Tour, and a Youth Leadership Dinner. They also formed the Homeownership Institute, which brought together area lenders, builders, realtors, and community leaders.

MINNESOTA

Current SAC Project: Federal Civil Rights Enforcement in Minnesota: An Update

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: To be determined

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: To be determined

Factfinding Meeting: To be determined

Date Report Approved by SAC: To be determined

Report Reviewed by HQ: To be determined

Last SAC Meeting: 4/29/04

Regional staff performed preliminary research into the potential topic of updating its previous report, *Resources Devoted to Local and Federal Civil Rights Enforcement in Minnesota*. Staff discovered that local and state civil rights enforcement agencies were losing investigators, mainly through attrition. The City of Minneapolis now has 5 investigators, and St. Paul has 2 investigators. In addition, the construction goals for minority contractors has gone down in the Twin Cities region despite the 2000 census indicating much greater diversification of the area. According to public employees interviewed, some of the problem stems from variant goals of the city, county and state; instead of one metro-wide goal. Finally, the MN Department of Human Rights had 30-40 percent of its cases going over one year, which can be damaging to the injured parties case. Also, many cases are dismissed without investigation because the department lacks the resources for such inquiries. These cases are designated as lack of merit cases, although they more appropriately should be designated in the recently removed lack of resources category.

The Committee voted to investigate the civil rights enforcement issue.

Staff has made contact with the federal civil rights agencies it will review for its upcoming report, "Resources Devoted to Local and Federal Civil Rights Enforcement in Minnesota: An Update." These agencies include the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. Staff requested funding, staffing, and complaint data.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/05 (conference call)

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Fact finding meeting or Briefing

The SAC is currently being re-chartered.

OHIO

Current SAC Project: Hate Crimes in Ohio Revisited

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 3/20/03

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: 10/7/03

Fact Finding Meetings: 11/24-25/03

Date for Report Approval by SAC: 09/16/05
Target Date for Report Review by HQ: 11/05

Last SAC Meeting: 09/16/05 (conference call)

Commission Approved re-charter 11/04.

The Committee members met on September 16, 2005, and unanimously approved of the report, "Hate Crime in Ohio Revisited." Committee members agreed to a number of cosmetic and substantive changes prior to approval. In addition, Committee members voted unanimously to have regional staff research two future topics: voting rights issues in Ohio and civil rights issues confronting immigrant communities in Ohio. Regional staff is to report back to the SAC its initial findings and recommendations for which topic to pursue.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Press conference to release the report. Planning meeting.

WISCONSIN

Current SAC Project: Police Protection of Minority Communities in Milwaukee

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 4/04 - submitted to OSD 4/30/04

Project Proposal Approved by OSD: To be determined

Report Approval by SAC: To be determined

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: To be determined

Re-charter to OSD 12/12/03

Last SAC Meeting: 4/15/04 (conference call)

SAC Chair Emraida Kiram attended and will be attending numerous events. On June 12, 2005, she was a guest speaker in Oxnard, California for Philippine Independence Day Celebrations. On June 15-17, 2005, she participated in the Asian Moon Festival in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Finally, on August 13, 2005, she will be the guest speaker in St. Louis, MO, at the Philippine American Medical Association conference.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 01/06 (conference call)

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Factfinding meeting or Briefing

REGION IV **CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE**

ALABAMA

Current SAC Project: Mobile briefing meeting follow-up activities.

Status: Planning southern regional project for 2005-06. Focus will be on environmental justice and government decision making. This will be a joint-project of the AL, AR, LA and MS SACs. The main point of review will be on future efforts/plans by local, state and national regulators to address problematic environmental issues in high risk communities in the above-referenced states. The SAC's are considering a request from Headquarters to participate in a Commission-sponsored review of school desegregation and the unitary status of local districts in the South.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/27/05 (joint conference call of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/15/05 (joint conference call of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACs)
Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Conduct follow-up activities related to EJ regional project.

ARKANSAS

Current SAC Project: Mobile briefing meeting follow-up activities.

Status: Planning southern regional project for 2005-06. Focus will be on environmental justice and government decision making. This will be a joint-project of the AL, AR, LA and MS SACs. The main point of review will be on future efforts/plans by local, state and national regulators to address problematic environmental issues in high risk communities in the above-referenced states. The SAC's are considering a request from Headquarters to participate in a Commission-sponsored review of school desegregation and unitary status of local districts in the South.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/27/05 (joint conference call of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/15/05 (joint conference call of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACs)
Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Conduct follow-up activities related to EJ regional project.

IOWA

Current SAC Project: "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour"(MCRLT)

Briefing Meeting: 5/27/04

Briefing Memo to SAC: 11/30/05

Target Date for Memo to Headquarters: 1/9/06

Last SAC Meeting: 9/8/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE & OK SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/20/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE & OK SACs)

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Prepare "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour"(MCRLT) briefing memo.

KANSAS

Current SAC Project: "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour" (MCRLT)

Briefing Meeting: 5/27/04

Briefing Memo to SAC: 11/30/05

Target Date for Memo to Headquarters: 1/9/06

Last SAC Meeting: 9/8/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE and OK SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 11/15/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE and OK SACs)

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Prepare "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour"(MCRLT) briefing memo. Prepare and submit SAC reappointments.

LOUISIANA

Current SAC Project: Mobile briefing meeting follow-up activities

Status: Planning southern regional project for 2005-06. Focus will be on environmental justice and government decision making. This will be a joint-project of the AL, AR, LA, & MS SACs. The main point of review will be on future efforts/plans by local state and national regulators to address problematic environmental issues in high risk communities in the above-referenced states. The SAC's are considering a request from the Commission to participate in a Commission-sponsored review of school desegregation and the unitary status of local districts in the South.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/27/05 (joint conference call of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/15/05 (joint conference call of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACs)

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Conduct follow-up activities related to EJ regional project.

MISSISSIPPI

Current SAC Project1: State Human Relations Legislation

Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 4/15/02

Factfinding Meeting: 10/9-10/02

Status: Draft report is inactive until other priority reports are completed and/or additional staff is available to process.

Current SAC Project 2: Mobile briefing meeting follow-up activities.

Status: Planning southern regional project for 2005-06. Focus will be on environmental justice and government decision making. This will be a joint-project of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACS. The main point of review will be on future efforts/plans by local state and national regulators to address problematic environmental issues in high risk communities in the above-referenced states. The SAC's are considering a request from the Commission to participate in a Commission-sponsored review of school desegregation and the unitary status of local districts in the South.

Last SAC Meeting: 10/27/05 (joint conference call of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/15/05 (joint conference call of the AL, AR, LA & MS SACs)

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Conduct follow-up activities related to EJ regional project.

MISSOURI

Current SAC Project: "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour" (MCRLT)

Briefing Meeting: 5/27/04

Briefing Memo to SAC: 11/30/05

Target Date for Memo to Headquarters: 1/9/06

Last SAC Meeting: 9/8/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE & OK SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/20/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE & OK SACs)
Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Prepare "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour" (MCRLT) briefing memo.

NEBRASKA

Current SAC Project: "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour" (MCRLT)

Briefing Meeting: 5/27/04

Briefing Memo to SAC: 9/30/05

Target Date for Memo to Headquarters: 1/9/06

Last SAC Meeting: 9/8/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE & OK SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/20/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE & OK SACs)
Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Prepare "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour" (MCRLT) briefing memo.

OKLAHOMA

Current SAC Project: "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour" (MCRLT)

Briefing Meeting: 5/27/04

Briefing Memo to SAC: 11/30/05

Target Date for Memo to Headquarters: 1/9/06

Last SAC Meeting: 9/8/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE & OK SACs). Also a regional SAC Chair planning meeting was held on 10/20/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: 12/20/05 (joint conference call of the IA, KS, MO, NE & OK SACs)
Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Prepare "Midwest Civil Rights Listening Tour" (MCRLT) briefing memo.

REGION V **ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE**

COLORADO

Current SAC Project: Confronting Discrimination in Reservation Border Town Communities

Regional Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 3/26/04

Target Date for Community Forum: to be determined

Status: Staff traveled to southwestern Colorado (Sept. 19-24) to conduct meetings and interviews in preparation for implementation of the regional Native American project.

Last SAC Meeting: 9/16/05.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: to be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: to be determined.

Other: The Regional Director attended meetings with elected officials and community members in Cortez. The Regional Director addressed an educational forum sponsored by the president of Fort Lewis College in Durango.

MONTANA

Current SAC Project: Confronting Discrimination in Reservation Border Town Communities

Regional Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 5/19/04

Target Date for Community Forum: to be determined.

Status: Plans for implementation of the regional project will be modified for fiscal year 2006, and a public forum will be postponed until adequate resources are available.

Last SAC Meeting: 5/26/05 (telephonic).

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined.

Projected Activities in the Next 12 Months: to be determined.

Other: Staff consulted with representatives of the Blackfeet Nation concerning issues of employment discrimination in Cutbank, a reservation border town.

NEW MEXICO

Current SAC Project: Confronting Discrimination in Reservation Border Town Communities

Regional Project Proposal Approved by SAC: March 18, 2003, revised

Target Date for Community Forum: 4/30/04, Farmington, NM (completed)

Report Approved by SAC: March 2005 (completed)

Target Date for Report Review by HQ: April 2005 (completed)

Status: The Advisory Committee awaits approval by the Commission prior to the public release of its report, *The Farmington Report: Civil Rights for Native Americans 30 Years Later*. The report was submitted to the Staff Director in March.

Last SAC Meeting: 8/29/05

Projected Next SAC Meeting: Press conference in Farmington to release Farmington report (subject to approval by the Staff Director).

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Public release of the Farmington report; meetings with officials in Farmington and Navajo Nation to discuss implementation of report recommendations.

Other: SAC members monitored activities being conducted along the U.S.-Mexico border by the Minutemen Civil Defense Corps.

NORTH DAKOTA

Current SAC Project: Confronting Discrimination in Reservation Border Town Communities

Regional Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 5/25/04

Target Date for Community Forum: to be determined

Status: Plans for implementation of the regional project will be modified for fiscal year 2006, and a public forum will be postponed until adequate resources are available.

Last SAC Meeting: 5/19/05 (telephonic).

Projected Next SAC Meeting: to be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: to be determined.

Civil Rights Developments: A town meeting, sponsored by the mayor's Human Relations Committee, Fair Housing of the Dakotas and United Tribes Technical College, was held in Bismarck to gather information about the experiences of the city's Native American population. David M. Gipp, president of United Tribes Technical College, said "the experience in Bismarck is not without problems for Indian people, but the picture isn't entirely negative. There are examples of cooperation and acceptance." Discussion focused on actions and recommendations for the Human Relations Committee. The committee is charged with advising city government about discrimination and promoting respect for diversity.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Current SAC Project: Confronting Discrimination in Reservation Border Town Communities

Regional Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 11/05/03

Target Date for Community Forum: to be determined

Status: Plans for implementation of the regional project will be modified for fiscal year 2006, and a public forum will be postponed until adequate resources are available.

Last SAC Meeting: 5/12/05 (telephonic). The committee discussed future plans for its project and reviewed methods for enhancing communications.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: to be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: to be determined.

Other: RMRO monitored developments relating to discrimination against Native Americans in reservation border towns.

Civil Rights Developments: In a state with one of the nation's highest graduation rates—96 percent in 2003-2004—Native American students lag far behind. In Sioux Falls last school year, 21 of the 34 Native American seniors dropped out, transferred or did not complete the course work necessary to qualify for a high school diploma.

UTAH

Current SAC Project: Confronting Discrimination in Reservation Border Town Communities

Regional Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 7/15/04

Target Date for Community Forum: to be determined.

Status: Plans for implementation of the regional project will be modified for fiscal year 2006, and a public forum will be postponed until adequate resources are available.

Last SAC Meeting: 9/15/05 (telephonic).

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: to be determined.

Other: Action on SAC appointments and reappointments was postponed by the Commission at its August 26, 2005 meeting. A revised appointment package was submitted to the Staff Director on November 18, 2004.

Civil Rights Developments: A new federal report shows Utah has nearly the largest wage disparity between women and men in the United States. The state has been near the bottom of pay-equity rankings for five of the past six years. While men's median wages grew by \$112 a week from 1998 to 2004, women's wages increased only \$81.

WYOMING

Current SAC Project: Confronting Discrimination in Reservation Border Town Communities

Regional Project Proposal Approved by SAC: 10/25/03

Target Date for Community Forum: to be determined.

Status: Staff conducted meetings and interviews at the University of Wyoming in Laramie to gather information for the regional project.

Plans for implementation of the regional project will be modified for fiscal year 2006, and a public forum will be postponed until adequate resources are available.

Last SAC Meeting: 9/22/04 (7-state subcommittee, conference call). The individual status of each state's participation in the regional project was discussed, and joint strategies were proposed.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: to be determined.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: to be determined.

Other: On May 24, 2005, RMRO staff submitted draft staff summary report, *Dropout Rates of Minority Students in Wyoming Public Secondary Schools*, to the staff director for required review and transmittal to the Commissioners.

The appointment recommendations to recharter this Committee were submitted to the Staff Director on February 11, 2005. Action on SAC appointments and reappointments was postponed by the Commission at its August 26, 2005 meeting. RMRO efforts to determine the status of this document have been unsuccessful.

OTHER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Staff participated in the annual conference of the National Indian Education Association, held in Denver. The Regional Director was invited to participate in the annual meeting of the Tribal Education Departments' National Assembly (TEDNA), also convened in Denver.

REGION VI **WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE**

ALASKA

Current SAC Project: Follow-up to *Racism's Frontier: The Untold Story of Discrimination and Division in Alaska*. Staff received additional responses to inquiries and is conducting further follow-up.

Last SAC Meeting: September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference; September 29, 2005 SAC teleconference.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be scheduled for January, 2006.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Follow-up to Native Alaskan issues report. The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

ARIZONA

Current SAC Project 1: Civil Rights Along the U.S./Mexico Border: A Need for Immigration Reform.

Forum Held: 8/27-8/28/04 (Nogales), target met.

Status: The final draft and checklist were submitted June 27th to OSD and the draft awaits Commission action.

Last SAC Meeting: September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be scheduled.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The SAC will complete its report on border issues. The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

The Arizona recharter package awaits Commission action.

CALIFORNIA

Current SAC Project 1: The SAC is in the midst of a multiphase project on racial profiling and administration of justice.

Last SAC Meeting: September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be scheduled.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

Other: The Acting Regional Director participated in weekly regional director tele-conference calls held September 28, October 5, 12, 19, & 26.

HAWAII

Current SAC Project: The SAC is considering as its next project a publication of civil rights issue papers from community leaders throughout the Islands.

Last SAC Meeting: September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference; September 30, SAC teleconference.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be scheduled.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The SAC is considering a review of the civil rights concerns of non-Native Hawaiian minorities in the Islands, including racial tensions in Honolulu public schools. The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

IDAHO

Current SAC Project: Discussion with the chairperson on a future project is ongoing and will continue.

Last SAC Meeting: September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: To be scheduled.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The SAC is contemplating a project on education. The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

NEVADA

Current SAC Project: # 1 The SAC has proposed a project to gather information on and evaluate the status of civil rights enforcement in Nevada.

Status: The SAC subcommittees (education, employment, housing and the administration of justice) have begun to collect data on those issues.

Last SAC Meeting: May 6, SAC teleconference; September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference.

Projected Next Meeting: The SAC plans a November 18, 2005 teleconference meeting.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: Ongoing review of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, its mandate and activities, as part of a broader study on the status of civil rights in the state. The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

OREGON

Current SAC Project: The SAC is considering a project on administration of justice in four areas of the state.

Last SAC Meeting: September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference.

Projected Next Meeting: To be scheduled.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: SAC review of proposed state legislation affecting immigration issues and law enforcement is ongoing. The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

Other: The chairperson appointed members to serve on the hate crime study subcommittee.

TEXAS

Current SAC Project 1: Four State Border Issues Follow-up

Proposal Reviewed by SAC: 3/04

Proposal Approved by OSD: 4/04

Forum: Date to be arranged.

Last SAC Meeting: Nov. 5, 2004, SAC teleconference; September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference.

Projected Next Meeting: To be scheduled.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: WRO staff continues research and gathering of information regarding school discrimination issues in Texarkana. The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

The chairperson is considering an additional appointment to the hate crime study subcommittee.

WASHINGTON

Current SAC Project: The SAC is considering sponsoring a conference on Native American health care issues. The draft proposal was briefly discussed at the May 12 meeting, and members voted to table the measure.

Last SAC Meeting: A teleconference meeting was held May 12, 2005; September 28, 2005, Regional Chair teleconference.

Projected Next SAC Meeting: The SAC is planning a November 17 teleconference meeting.

Projected Activities in Next 12 Months: The SAC is reviewing Indian health care issues and police-community relations in Seattle. The SAC is participating in the nine-state study on hate crime reporting in the region.

Other: Regional staff awaits appointment letters from Commission headquarters for the Advisory Committee. The SAC was rechartered on 11/12/04.

MULTI-STATE

Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Texas and Washington

Current Project 1: Hate Crime Reporting in the Western Region. A preliminary draft of the report is being reviewed by the nine chairpersons.

Attachment A

**U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS EVALUATION
COMPLAINT REPORT**

REPORTING MONTH: October 2005
BREAKDOWN OF COMPLAINTS PROCESSED

<u>By subject</u>		<u>By basis of complaint</u>	
Employment	15	Race and ethnic origin	10
Housing	2	Black	18
Education	1	Hispanic	2
Federal programs	8	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0
Administration of justice	24	Asian	0
Voting	0	Other national origin, race	5
Health care	1	Religion	1
Human rights	0	Sex	5
Police brutality	10	Disability	9
Public accommodations	1	Age	1
Hate crimes	0	Inmates	92
Other	126	Sexual harassment	0
No jurisdiction	88	Reprisal	1
Unknown	10	Basis not stated	10
Affirmative Action	0	Unknown	2
Police Misconduct	23	Other	170
Prisoners' Rights	5		
Prison Conditions	10		
Backlog at the beginning of reporting period			0
New complaints received in month:			
Correspondence (regular):			162
Congressional:			1
Walk-ins:			6
Authentic telephone calls:			127
E-mail:			22
Facsimile			4
Total new complaints:			322
Total workload:			322
Total complaints processed in month:			322
Total backlog of telephone calls:			0
Total backlog of written complaints:			0
Miscellaneous complaints processed, referral not necessary			96

**U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS EVALUATION**

REPORTING MONTH: October 2005

REFERRAL AGENCIES FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Department of Agriculture.....	0
Department of Defense.....	0
Department of Education.....	1
Department of Health and Human Services.....	2
Department of Housing and Urban Development.....	2
Department of Justice.....	76
Attorney General's Office.....	0
Federal Bureau of Investigation.....	0
Department of Labor.....	0
Department of State.....	0
Department of Transportation.....	0
Department of the Treasury	
Internal Revenue Service.....	0
Customs Service.....	0
Department of Veterans Affairs.....	0
Environmental Protection Agency.....	0
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.....	14
Executive Office of U.S. Trustees.....	0
Federal Communications Commission.....	0
Federal Trade Commission.....	0
Merit Systems Protection Board.....	0
National Labor Relations Board.....	0
Small Business Administration.....	0
Postal Service.....	0
Other agencies, State and non-Federal.....	3

**U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS EVALUATION
COMPLAINT BREAKDOWN BY STATE**

(WRITTEN & TELEPHONE COMPLAINTS)

REPORTING MONTH: October 2005

ALABAMA	12	MONTANA	1
ALASKA	0	NEBRASKA	0
ARIZONA	6	NEVADA	1
ARKANSAS	7	NEW HAMPSHIRE	0
CALIFORNIA	23	NEW JERSEY	10
COLORADO	4	NEW MEXICO	0
CONNECTICUT	1	NEW YORK	50
DELAWARE	0	NORTH CAROLINA	6
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	10	NORTH DAKOTA	0
FLORIDA	13	OHIO	6
GEORGIA	6	OKLAHOMA	3
HAWAII	0	OREGON	1
IDAHO	2	PENNSYLVANIA	38
ILLINOIS	4	RHODE ISLAND	0
INDIANA	3	SOUTH CAROLINA	9
IOWA	1	SOUTH DAKOTA	0
KANSAS	2	TENNESSEE	4
KENTUCKY	2	TEXAS	18
LOUISIANA	4	UTAH	1
MAINE	0	VERMONT	0
MARYLAND	10	VIRGINIA	13
MASSACHUSETTS	10	WASHINGTON	4
MICHIGAN	5	WEST VIRGINIA	1
MINNESOTA	0	WISCONSIN	3
MISSISSIPPI	1	WYOMING	1
MISSOURI	3	OUTSIDE USA	2
		NO STATE*	20

* Generally, e-mail complaints do not indicate a state.

Attachment B

PERSONNEL REPORT

September 19, 2005 through October 21, 2005

Permanent appointments47

Intermittent schedules..... 7

Accessions

Program Staff

Patricia Jackson

Support Staff

None

Separations

Program Staff

Support Staff

- Appointment of Commissioner's to the Election Assistance Commission

I have decided to appoint Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom and Commissioner Ashley Taylor to sit on the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission Board of Advisors.

According to the Elections Assistance Commission's regulations as well as the past practice of this Commission, it is appropriate that the Chairman make these appointments. The Board of Advisors consists of 37 members drawn from various national associations and government agencies who play a role as volunteers in the implementation of the Help America Vote Act. The Board members serve for two-year terms and may be reappointed. I have every confidence that Vice Chair Thernstrom and Commissioner Taylor will be effective representatives of the Commission and that their expertise and knowledge will enable them to contribute significantly to the Elections Assistance Commission.

**Motion to Permit Commissioners to Evaluate State Advisory Committee
Reports for Quality and Substance**

I move that the Commission establish the following policy, which will supersede all prior inconsistent policies previously adopted: I move that the Commission continue its process whereby we vote to publish the State Advisory Committee reports. However, when the Commission votes on whether to publish a State Advisory Committee report, Commissioners may consider evaluating the quality and substance of said report. The Commission will not, however, attempt to engage in any undue influence regarding the content of the State Advisory Committee reports, including the findings and recommendations.

If the particular State Advisory Committee report in question does not obtain a majority of the votes of the Commissioners, the State Advisory Committee report will be deemed “filed” with the Commission but not published. All published reports will be available to the public. Any report deemed filed but not approved for publication shall not be placed on the Commission’s website nor obtained via a link on the Commission’s website.

Draft of Motion for 11/18/05 Commission Meeting

This is a motion to accept for publication a report from a State Advisory Committee. Specifically, I move that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights accept for publication the Arizona State Advisory Committee report, *Civil Rights Along the U.S./Mexico Border: A Need for Immigration Reform*.

Motion for 11/18/05 Commission Meeting

This is a motion to accept for publication a report from a State Advisory Committee. Specifically, I move that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights accept for publication the New Mexico State Advisory Committee report, *The Farmington Report: Civil Rights for Native Americans 30 Years Later*.

**Motion to Approve the Report on the Briefing on Reauthorization of the
Voting Rights Act**

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Commission approve the report produced by the Office of Civil Rights Evaluation on the briefing the Commission held on October 7, 2005 on the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. The report, as distributed in draft form to Commissioners, includes an executive summary of the panelists' testimony, their written statements, and findings and recommendations of the Commission.

Motion for 11/18/05 Commission Meeting

- Motion for Scheduling the Briefing on Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2005

I move to have the Commission hold the previously approved briefing concerning the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2005 (S. 147), introduced in the Senate by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-Hi), on Friday, January 20, 2006.

Motion for 11/18/05 Commission Meeting

- Motion for Scheduling the Briefing on Sander Article

I move to have the Commission hold the previously approved briefing concerning the findings of UCLA Law Professor Richard H. Sander in his article, *A Systematic Analysis of Affirmative Action in American Law Schools*, 57 STAN. L. REV. 367 (2004) on Friday, June 16, 2006. The briefing would feature Professor Sander and at least one other academic expert in the subject matter of Professor Sander's article who can provide a contrary viewpoint.