



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee

2021 Subcommittee Highlights

Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

From a dream to a destiny, the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee** in partnership with Atrium Health, the Community Relations Committee and WSOCTV, aired a one-hour program on January 18, 2021. The inspiring program showcased how members of our community reflected on and honored Dr. King's legacy and looked back at the history of the annual event. The prime time special, through television, digital and social platforms, was recognized in twenty-two counties across North and South Carolina.



Some of the highlights were the Medallion Award, Keeper of the Dream Award and the Growing the Dream Award presentations. Also featured was the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony, the Vice President Kamala Harris MLK Reflections from local students, the Mayor's Mentoring Alliance Mentee of the Year and MLK Reflections from Atrium Health CEO Gene Woods.

Keeping the Community Informed

The **Communications Subcommittee** created and distributed a quarterly newsletter focused on critically important community issues such as fair housing, equity and conflict resolution. The newsletter also contained special sections for community and CRC member spotlights. Each quarterly issue reaches over 8,000 City employees, 6,000 County employees and more than 1,100 subscribers via Public Input. To view the CRC newsletter, visit: <https://charlottenc.gov/crc/NewsEvents>.

The **Education and Young Leaders Subcommittee** collaborated with Attorney Desmon Andrade of The Freedmen Law Group, and several CMPD Officers to host a Learn Your Rights Webinar for youth and young adults. Over 62 community members attended and received information on understanding their rights in situations involving law enforcement.

Empowering and Creating Equitable Opportunities for All

The **Intercultural Relations Subcommittee** began a process of reviewing the City of Charlotte's Ordinances to examine local policies through an equity lens in order to make recommendations to City Council on suggested changes. As a part of this effort, they were able to serve as a leader in the development of Non-Discrimination Ordinance document(s) that were presented to the Charlotte City Council.

The Subcommittee also partnered to promote the Census 2020 and COVID19 vaccination efforts, as well as worked with Mecklenburg County's Recycle Right team and the Communications Subcommittee to promote recycling to the county residents by featuring an article in the Community Relations quarterly newsletter. Also, during COVID19, the Subcommittee engaged with various partners to understand and help with evictions, homelessness and support the community during the pandemic.

While the Subcommittee is focused on removing barriers to enable all residents of Mecklenburg County to have equal access to community programs and resources, they have a special emphasis on the immigrant population. During the year they engaged with Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy (CCLA) to understand the services provided by the organization and focused on the Immigrant Justice Program, which serves immigrants. Additionally, they met with the Office of Equity, Mobility and Immigrant Integration to understand and promote the City's Language Access Program to better serve the international community.

Bridging Differences in the Community

The purpose of the **Police-Community Relations Engagement Subcommittee** is to build bridges with law enforcement in the community through communication and education to foster positive engagement. The subcommittee appointed a member of CMPD to serve on committee and bring monthly updates, attended/participated in CMPD monthly community meetings, worked alongside CMPD at weekly CMPD Food Distributions across Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and recently hosted a Town Hall with CMPD and the community in partnership with WBTV. The subcommittee is also working with Community Relations staff to develop a landing page on the CRC website to host CMPD information and police-community relations events/resources.

Recognizing Outstanding Contributions to Improve Police-Community Relations

The **Police-Community Relations Awards Subcommittee** held the 41st Annual Police Community Relations Awards Program at the Palmer Building on Friday, May 14, 2021. Prior to the ceremony, members of the Police Awards Subcommittee interviewed police officers who had been nominated by the community. The police officers shared their experiences working with community members and how they go above and beyond for Charlotte-Mecklenburg daily. During the awards ceremony, officers received a plaque and \$500. One CMPD team received a plaque recognizing that every officer on that team has received the Police Community Relations Award in 2019 or 2021. In addition to this year's ceremony, the Subcommittee recognized students who work with CMPD to build police-community relations. To view the 41st Annual Awards Program, visit: <https://charlottenc.gov/crc/Police-Community-Relations/Pages/default2.aspx>

