Community Relations Committee

VISION: Be recognized as a global model in building community harmony by advocating for diversity, equity and access for all.

MISSION: CRC empowers, collaborates, engages and promotes opportunities to create positive outcomes.

CRC is a 45-member team of professionals and volunteers who serve as civil rights and human relations advocates. This committee also provides counsel to Community Relations staff.

For over 60 years, CRC has represented an inclusive community, successfully built relationships and promoted harmony.

CRC works to ensure fairness for all and remove barriers that impede the community from living in harmony.
How the Work of CRC Gets Done

Each committee member participates in at least one of six subcommittees:

- Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Communications
- Education and Young Leaders
- Intercultural Relations
- Police-Community Relations
- Awards and Engagement
- Programs & Speakers
2022 Atrium Health Charlotte-Mecklenburg Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday Celebration

Due to Covid-19, the Planning Committee felt that the safest way to provide the community the best opportunity to Celebrate Dr. King was to produce a virtual platform for enjoyment. The events were held virtually again this year.

WBTV covered and aired a story about the wreath-laying ceremony which took place on Saturday, January 15.

Additionally, an hour-long television special aired Monday, January 17, 2022, from 7-8 p.m. The special reached over 30,000 households in the Charlotte area.
Community-Informed Strategies

The Communications Subcommittee has done a great job distributing quarterly newsletters that provide public service announcements and community awareness of CRC events. The newsletter reaches over 8,000 city employees, 6,000 county employees and 1,500+ newsletter subscribers.

The Education and Young Leaders Subcommittee focuses on development and social responsibility for youth, up-and-coming leaders, and future generations in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. In late 2021, the Subcommittee partnered with a local business owner to host a Credit and Financial Literacy Webinar.
Empowering and Creating Equitable Opportunities for All

The **Intercultural Relations Subcommittee** is focused on removing barriers to ensure all residents of Charlotte-Mecklenburg have equal access to community programs and resources with a special emphasis on the immigrant population.
Building Bridges

The purpose of the Police-Community Relations Awards & Engagement Subcommittee is to build bridges with law enforcement in the community through communication and education to foster positive engagement.
Membership Enhancement & Growth

CRC members represent many facets of diversity within Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The Programs & Speakers Subcommittee focuses on providing education about community resources and sharing the talents of CRC members internally to strengthen the committee.
Working to Build a Better Community
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Department

- Administration
- ADA Program
- Community Affairs
- Dispute Settlement Program
- Fair Housing
Americans With Disabilities Act Program

- ADA guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities.

- Individuals can file ADA complaints and grievances (within 60 days of the alleged violation) to the Community Relations ADA program office at charlotteADA@charlottenc.gov.
Youth Engagement

- Peer Clubs in 10 schools
- Over 100 students reached
- Ongoing partnerships, including:
  - CMS
  - Communities in Schools
  - CMPD
  - Girl Scouts
  - Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
- Increasing engagement through events, field trips, conflict resolution game development
Dispute Settlement Program
Fair Housing: More Than Just Words

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

April 5
Service Animals 101
Disability Rights & Resources will host an informative session on disability laws around service animals and emotional support animals. Attendees will learn what type of documentation is allowed to be requested for ADA and Fair Housing.

Fair Housing & Criminal Background 101
This session will provide an overview of what housing providers can do to assist with housing needs for individuals with a criminal background, how to avoid fair housing complaints, and the disparate impact of screening policies and procedures on people with criminal backgrounds.

April 26
Domestic Violence 101
Learn from experts about issues in domestic violence that may be in violation of fair housing law. Attendees will also be informed on the Violence Against Women Act and housing rights.

Webinars will begin at noon.
Register at: https://bit.ly/FHM22

Fair Housing: More Than Just Words
Nondiscrimination Ordinance (NDO)

Human Rights Should be Exercised without Discrimination
The CRC is committed to:
• Removing barriers
• Fighting for equity
• Amplifying community voices
• Standing for justice

The CRC will be a:
• Facilitator of dialogue
• Bridge to connect our diverse community
• Builder of community harmony

The CRC recognizes that:
• Everyone needs to be part of the solution
• There is strength in working together
• No one of us is as good as all of us

The CRC will focus on:
• Promoting awareness that emphasizes inclusion
• Ensuring fairness and accessibility so everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed

Looking Forward
Thank you for your continued support of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee.

We feel our partnership is vital to a healthy community in promoting harmony, facilitating resolution and celebrating diversity.

Please contact us for any assistance.

Vanessa Clarke  
CRC Chair  
310-597-2187

Willie Ratchford  
Executive Director  
704-726-3320