

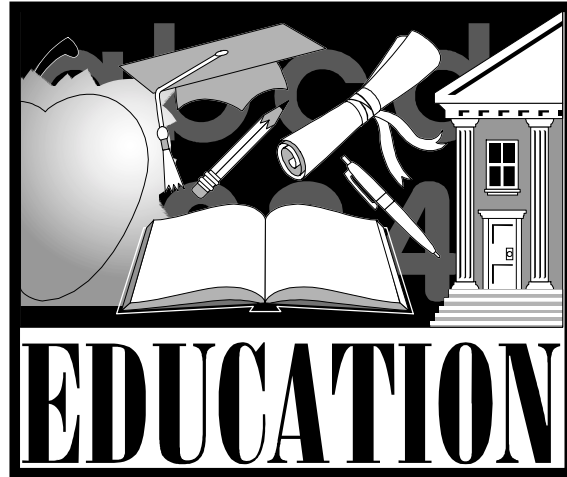


THE RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

A SEMIANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE LEXINGTON - FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Commissioner Lori Davis was appointed to the Commission in 2000 and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Community Relations Committee.



Commissioner Jeff Jones was appointed to the Commission in 1999 and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Community Relations Committee.

Since the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit's final decision in *Jefferson et al v. the Board of Education of Fayette County* in 1973, our community has been faced with the challenge of ending decades of separate and state mandated disparate educational opportunities for our public school children based on race. The local school board was given the affirmative duty to remedy this situation by ensuring state sponsored inequality would end and that all children would have equal opportunities to learn. Whether or not we have made tangible progress as a community in this area still provokes a stubborn and contentious debate that usually breaks down along racial and economic lines. What

is clear is that to make effective changes and improvements in our schools, we as a community must first address the issue of race and racism in our community.

Talking about race and racism are among those topics that most of us avoid and wish would go away. Some think of racism as individual acts of meanness rather than the social and economic systems that confer dominance on one group by another. While most in our community acknowledge the need to work for better race relations, few seem to acknowledge the need to work for equality and equal opportunities for all. It seems that some members of the community believe that working for equality and equal opportunity will lessen or jeopardize their privileges in our community. In other words, racism may put some people at a disadvantage but it is rarely acknowledged that it puts other individuals at a clear advantage, namely those who most benefit from discriminatory practices.

Inside This Issue....

1 st Quarter Compliance Report.....	2
Leadership Summit on Erasing Racism.....	3
Commission Elects 2002 Executive Committee.....	5
Introduction to New Commissioners.....	5

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from cover page)

What is needed in our community is the kind of leadership that acknowledges not only our strengths and our weaknesses, but more importantly acknowledges the need for us to strive beyond our prior successes. Leadership that inspires us to not only look forward, but also to look backward through a realistic prism that does not filter out the horrors and mistakes that got us here in the first place. Leadership that is accountable enough to say that we have made mistakes and that we have problems, but is strong enough to avoid the blame game and savvy enough to invite and unite the various resources of this community to address these challenges.

Every since this Commission was created in 1963 we have had the statutory mission of working to improve race relations. As part of that mission, we have always acknowledged the importance of education and the roles it plays in our community development. For that reason, we too, acknowledge the need for us to commit to do more and to do better. We ask each member of the Lexington-Fayette County community to join us in this commitment.

**DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING
POLICE OFFICER IN THE
LEXINGTON COMMUNITY?**

**NOMINATE HIM/HER FOR THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S
FIRST POLICE COMMUNITY
RELATIONS AWARD!**

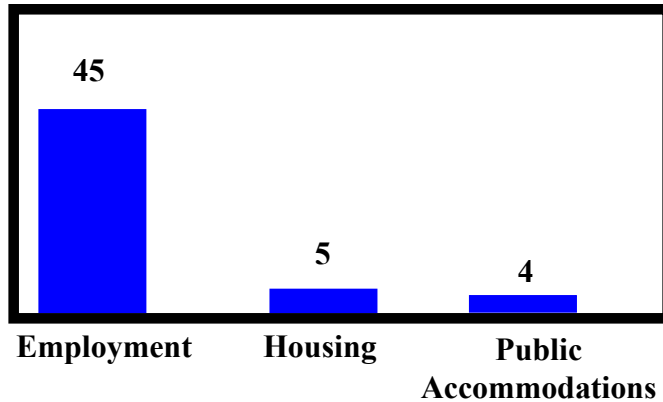
**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2002**

CONTACT:
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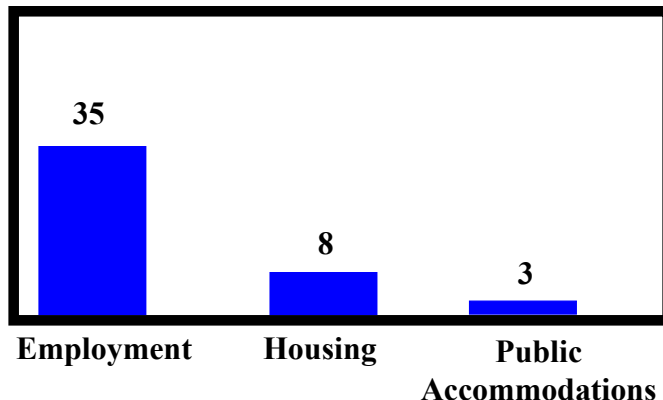
1st Quarter FY 2002 Compliance Report

The 1st Quarter of FY 2002 has been a busy one for the compliance section. Investigators have been planning many special events such as the April 2002 Fair Housing Luncheon and Fair Lending Seminar, the June 2002 Homebuying Seminar, and the upcoming Police Community Relations Conference. In addition, investigators have closed a total of 46 cases in the 3 month period as well as receiving 54 new cases. The cases received and closed are shown below.

**CASES RECEIVED
1ST QUARTER FY 2002
(JULY 2001-SEPTEMBER 2001)**



**CASES CLOSED
1ST QUARTER FY 2002
(JULY 2001-SEPTEMBER 2001)**



Leadership Summit On Erasing Racism

by Sandra Noble Canon, Executive Director, NCCJ-Bluegrass Region



On November 12, 2001, the Kentucky League of Cities, NewCities Foundation and the National Conference for Community and Justice-Bluegrass Region held the Leadership Summit on Erasing Racism bringing identified leaders together to initiate sustained strategies to address, undo, and prevent racism. The Summit, a benchmark in a larger initiative which coincides with NCCJ's national focus on institutional change through leadership, and with the National League of Cities' Campaign to Promote Racial Justice, encouraged local leaders to engage their communities in exploring the issue of race and ethnic relations.

The Leadership Initiative on Erasing Racism is one strategy to address the institutional aspects of racism — to recognize, expose and counter conflict intolerance — through leadership. For the previous six months, leaders in the economic, education, faith, government, media, social and youth sectors met to identify problems and propose solutions for addressing issues of minority representation within each of their sectors.

The goal of the initiative is to target leaders to create a long-term strategy that businesses and organizations can adapt in creating a more diverse community. Keynote speaker, Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and internationally renowned expert in the field of minority relations and legal theory, moderated a panel discussion identifying racism within each of the seven sectors as well as led an interactive luncheon address.

Dr. Ogletree offered ten critical steps for dealing with, through dialogue and actions, racism in our world.

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE THAT RACISM EXISTS.**
2. **RECOGNIZE THAT ANYONE CAN BE A RACIST.**
3. **RACISM CAN BE BOTH CONSCIOUS AND UNCONSCIOUS.**
4. **LAWS AND MORALITY ARE EFFECTIVE IN FIGHTING CONSCIOUS RACISM.**
5. **LAWS AND MORALITY ARE LARGELY INEFFECTIVE IN FIGHTING UNCONSCIOUS RACISM**
6. **WHITE PRIVILEGE IS BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND SYMBOLIC.**
7. **RACIAL PROFILING IS A MANIFESTATION OF WHITE PRIVILEGE AND BLACK BURDEN.**
8. **SUCCESS IN ENDING RACISM WILL LARGELY BE DRIVEN BY THE EFFORTS OF THOSE IN THE MAJORITY, I.E. THE WHITE COMMUNITY.**
9. **QUALITY EDUCATION IS THE FASTEST ROUTE TO ENDING RACISM.**
10. **SUCCESS IN ENDING RACISM IS DEPENDENT ON OUR YOUTH BEING A PART OF THE PROCESS.**

In the upcoming months, the sector leaders will meet to implement a plan for breaking down the barriers that have been identified within each sector. A series of public forums will be held to establish an ongoing dialogue between local leaders and the community. NCCJ – Bluegrass Region, the Kentucky League of Cities and the NewCities Foundation hopes that Lexington will become a model for other communities on how to address the issues of diversity and race relations.

For more information, please contact NCCJ at 859-255-6999 or Kentucky League of Cities at 323-3700. Or contact us via email at scanon@nccj.org or robyn@klc.uky.edu.



Dr. Charles Ogletree talking with panel members Joe Kelly and Laura Voss.



Summit attendees listen to the sector group presentations.

Leadership Summit on Erasing Racism November 12, 2001



Summit organizers welcome the crowd (L) Sandy Canon - NCCJ, (Center) Sylvia Lovely and (R) Charles Babb - Kentucky League of Cities



(R) Nick Rowe, from the economic sector group, addresses the crowd. (L to R) Dr. Sandra Powell from the education sector, Al Mitchell and William Wharton from the government sector, and Tony Hartsfield from the education sector.

New Commissioners Berthiaume & Rie



Commissioner Brian J. Berthiaume was appointed to the Commission in June 2001. Mr. Berthiaume recently moved to Lexington from Jackson, Mississippi and is employed by Lexington Habitat for Humanity. While a student at Millsaps College he served as Habitat for Humanity College Chapter President and was honored as the Millsaps College Multi-cultural Affairs Humanitarian of the Year in 1998. Mr. Berthiaume is particularly interested in fair housing issues and being a strong voice for the under-30 population of Lexington-Fayette County.

Commissioner Gloria B. Rie was appointed in June 2001. Ms. Rie is a 10-year resident of Lexington who has devoted herself to community advocacy. She is the founder of The Humanitarian: Center for Culture & Diversity, Treasurer of the Lexington Network, and serves on the boards of the National Conference of Community & Justice, the Lexington Hearing and Speech Center and the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation. Ms. Rie was a founding board member of Transformation House and is a recent graduate of the Citizen's Police Academy in Lexington.



2002 Executive Committee



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Samye Miller



Vice Chair
Carolyn Edwards



Secretary
Adela Figueras



Treasurer
Paul Engel



Chair
Samye Miller
Vice Chair
Carolyn Edwards
Secretary
Adela Figueras
Treasurer
Paul Engel

Commissioners
Brian Berthiaume
Lori Davis
Wayne A. Gnatuk
Jeff Jones
Gloria Rie



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**EIGHTH ANNUAL
FAIR HOUSING LUNCHEON &
INAUGURAL POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AWARD
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2002**

FEATURING: ANDREW D. PLEPLER, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES , FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION

PRECEDED BY A WORKSHOP TITLED:

*“DO NOT BORROW TROUBLE: PROTECTING OUR
COMMUNITY FROM PREDATORY LENDING PRACTICES”*



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