



EMPOWER MISSOURI HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE

Agenda/Report for 1:30, Thursday, July 27, 2017

New Teleconference Number: 515-603-3103

Passcode: 167856#

Please send agenda items to dmaclove1@gmail.com or on [HRTF Meetings](#)

Participants: J. Boyce (Legal Services KC), Jeannie Branstetter (Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys), Phillip Weeks, Pam Rich, Eric Krekel, Jeanette Oxford, Charles Bryson (St Louis Civil Rights Enforcement Agency), Dan Viets (Mid-Missouri Civil Liberties Association), Rod Chapel (NAACP President), Don Love

1. Bias-free Policing

a. Don is working on completion of our spreadsheets and narratives to explain the 2016 VSR.

b. Developments in Columbia: city council tabled a proposal to fund its civic engagement effort because it was going to cost 60k and didn't seem to involve enough vulnerable people. One problem with it was that it was tied to a voter referendum on a tax to fund more officers, while it makes more sense to start work on community policing now rather than wait for more officers. We had proposed that the proposal start with a statement that Columbia is committed to community policing and that city staff continue to implement elements of community policing. We will do what we can to help the effort. We'll try again to get the Chief to do more with data. We invented the *Pulled Over* authors to Columbia. Mary Ratliff, Columbia NAACP president, says she is planning events.

c. **Mustafa is setting up a coalition meeting for August 4.**

d. Don wants to get an email together for legislators. Once the collection of documents is ready, it will be used to continue work.

e. We have a commentary on bias-free policing in the Empower Missouri newsletter.

f. Cynthia McNeil had a brief conversation with Cheryl Clay, NAACP in Springfield; she told her what we're doing. Cynthia has decided to work with our Economic Justice TF.

g. It would be nice to have a video presentation on the VSR and/or how to look at data. Rod Chapel makes good use of the public access studio in Jeff City.

h. **Columbia City Council member Ian Thomas introduced Don to a former DOJ COPS program administrator. She could be a great resource.**

2. SB43: effort to support the Missouri Human Rights Act against changes that make it more difficult for vulnerable people to protect themselves.

- a. Charles reported HUD has alerted officials that because of the law Missouri no longer meets its standards for defending its housing regulations so it will withdraw funding of Missouri Commission on Human Rights enforcement efforts.
- b. Jeanette said it's a lie that the law conforms to HUD expectations and is equivalent to laws in other states that are acceptable. Legislators were told this repeated by multiple sources.
- c. Rod reported on a national NAACP convention resolution in support of Missouri NAACP convention's efforts to fight the new law.
<http://www.matanet.org/docDownload/736274> Discouraging people from traveling to Missouri because of the law could lead to a boycott. Rod doesn't think the Republicans will want to change the law to make it acceptable to HUD; legal challenges are a better strategy.
- d. Jeanette will work on an OpEd, set up a doodle poll to determine a meeting date for further discussion and see if a Republican would sponsor improved legislation.
- e. **Jeannie provided a link to a response from Sharon: Matanet.org**
- f. Eric: incidents occurring before August 27 fall under the old law, so individuals still have opportunities to file complaints.

3. HRTF will host a panel discussion on employee rights at Empower Missouri's annual meeting October 5 and 6 in Clayton. See EmpowerMissouri.org for details.

4. Pam Rich: The Central Chapter Annual meeting 8/31 will feature Rod Chapel (state NAACP pres.) and Justin Carver, chief PD for this district will discuss 5 cases to be retried because Cole Co PA (Mark Richardson) would NOT allow blacks to be jurists! Apparently, this is becoming widespread in MO.

5. Empower Missouri will have a table at Columbia PrideFest, August 26.

6. Empower Missouri in St. Louis:
Privacy Watch STL: Surveillance Bill in St. Louis
STPP: School To Prison Pipeline
Table: Search for New Police Chief in St. Louis
Moral Missouri: Continued Meetings

7. We are working on an Empower Missouri response to Trump's declaration about transgender persons and the military.

8. Next Meeting: 1:30, Thursday, August 24.

