

# THE CRC NEWSLETTER

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

Promoting harmony & respect among a diverse citizenry of our state



South Carolina Human Affairs Commission  
www.schac.sc.gov

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### **South Carolina Human Affairs Commission (SCHAC) Welcomes Aiken County as most recent Community Relations Council**

Chairman John Oakland, Deputy Commissioner Dan Koon and Senior Consultant Sandra Ligon met with members of the Aiken County Community on Thursday, August 18, to implement a new Community Relations and Development Council.

In January 2016, Aiken County Council passed an ordinance to create the council, replacing the inactive Human Relations Commission, which was created in 1991.

The ordinance says the new council has been created with “a defined purpose and mission for fostering strong community-wide relationships.” At this first meeting, the group discussed its goals and received training which included the history, purpose and mission of the Agency.

Aiken County Council member Camille Furgiuele said she approached the County about revitalizing the group after attending a community meeting that featured pastors, government officials and others following a 2015 murder in New Ellenton. Ms. Furgiuele said one of the visions for the Community Relations and Development Council is to be a forum to hold public hearings in all of the county’s districts and be the “eyes and ears” for Aiken County Council. In addition to this vision, the council will also foster better human relations and promote harmony throughout the county. The council is not intended to be a place where people will express individual grievances but will be a place to make referrals to the proper agency for resolution.

There are eight members on the council representing each county district. The ordinance also allows two appointments in consultation with the mayors of the county’s largest cities—Aiken and North Augusta. Dan Koon, SCHAC’s Deputy Commissioner, told the group that South Carolina went “through a very difficult time” this past year, but with good leadership, we did not experience the same problems that other cities have in the US. “You might think it can’t happen in Aiken County, but it can he said. We believe that with a good system in place such as a good Community Relations Council, problems are less likely to arise.

The council will establish by-laws, choose officers and be introduced to the latest human relations management systems in future meetings. Aiken county residents interested in more information should contact Sandra Ligon at [Sandra@schac.sc.gov](mailto:Sandra@schac.sc.gov).



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**Community Relations Councils**

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Current CRCs:

Columbia, Lexington, Allendale, Hampton, Beaufort, Jasper, Berkeley, Myrtle Beach, Georgetown, Lancaster, Rock Hill, Greenwood, Greenville, Anderson, Laurens, McCormick

**Hispanic Heritage Month**

is a wonderful opportunity to recognize Hispanic culture and to celebrate the achievements of Hispanic Americans who have had a great influence on America. Generations of Hispanic Americans have enriched our nation by making contributions in science, education, the arts and politics.

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the cultures and traditions of those who can trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking countries of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. The annual celebration is observed from September 15 to October 15.



Annual Event Calendar  
 for  
**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS**

**January**  
 MLK/Interfaith Awareness

**February**  
 African American History

**March**  
 Women's History/End Racism Day

**April**  
 Fair Housing

**May**  
 Law Enforcement/  
 Community Relations

**June**  
 Disaster Preparedness/Emanuel 9  
 Remembrance, Peace & Reconciliation

**July**  
 Employment Discrimination/  
 Economic Opportunity

**August**  
 Youth Project/Back to School

**September**  
 Hispanic Heritage/  
 Cultural Diversity

**October**  
 Disability Employment Awareness

**November**  
 American Indian Heritage/  
 Veterans' Appreciation

**December**  
 Aging & Poverty Issues