

Civil Rights PA PHRC News

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Fair Housing Campaign

The PHRC received funding from HUD last year and embarked on a media awareness campaign. The campaign started with the development and distribution of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that were played on radio stations across the state and also on some stations on the internet such as Pandora. The first phase of the

campaign has been successful in bringing additional inquiries and complaints to the PHRC.

Phase two of the campaign involves placing fair housing advertisements on 50 SEPTA buses in Philadelphia and advertisements inside of 75 additional SEPTA buses. Fair housing advertisements will also

be placed in selected bus shelters in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

As a compliment to the campaign in Philadelphia, August 3-5, the PECO "Crown Lights" on top of the company's building, will post "Fair Housing is your Right: 1855-866-5718."



Live where you want.
FAIR HOUSING IS YOUR RIGHT.



www.phrc.state.pa.us • 1-855-866-5718

Advisory Committee Expansion

The PHRC is looking for individuals who are interested in participating in local advisory councils throughout the state. The Commission's goal is to expand the number of advisory councils across the state. The existing six councils are: Cambria, Blair, Centre,

York, Montgomery and Monroe Counties. Recently, two more advisory councils are in the formative stages: Southwest Pennsylvania (Allegheny, Washington and Westmoreland Counties) and Berks County. The PHRC is

currently gathering names of persons interested in serving at the local level.

If you, or someone you know would be interested, please send the resume to phrc@pa.gov

The PHRC promotes equal opportunity for all and enforces Pennsylvania’s civil rights laws that protect people from unlawful discrimination. It is our vision that all people in Pennsylvania are able to live, work and learn free from unlawful discrimination.

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717.787.4410 (phone)
717.214.0584 (fax)
phrc@pa.gov
www.phrc.state.pa.us*

PHRC Provides Free Training

The PHRC offers free training to schools, employers, businesses, community groups, state and local government, law enforcement and others.

Training topics include:

- Anti-Harassment
- Diversity and Cultural Competency
- General Overview of the PHRC and the Complaint Process
- Disability and Reasonable

Accommodation

- Pregnancy
- Fair Housing Laws

Questions and training can be requested at phrc@pa.gov

The PHRC also has resources available to educate the public about Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws. These resources and our new videos defining types of discrimination can be

found on our website under at: www.phrc.state.pa.us

Education Equity Initiative

The PHRC’s Education Equity Initiative was established to help ensure that equal educational opportunities exist for all Pennsylvania students, and they have a safe and positive environment that is conducive to learning.

The Education and Community Services division of the PHRC has been working with a number of schools

throughout the state.

We have successfully worked with the Coatesville School District and are presently working with Pittsburgh and Reading School Districts.

It is our hope to continue to work with these schools and others to help them improve overall outcomes for students and decrease the pipeline to prison

effect.

The PHRC strongly supports students having the opportunity to learn in a positive and nurturing environment.

To find out more about this exciting initiative, contact Geoff Biringer at the PHRC at 717-772-0523.

Mediation Program

The PHRC Mediation Program was created to be an alternative in resolving disputes without lengthy investigations, or going through the PHRC hearing process or the courts. The program involves a voluntary,

informal process where both parties agree to work with a trained, neutral mediator to help them explore and resolve their differences together. The goal is to establish a settlement acceptable to both parties.

To date, 27 cases have been mediated and the program has saved over \$115,000, by resolving cases early in the process.

To find out more about the program visit our website at www.phrc.state.pa.us

PHRC Employee Star Awards

The PHRC Star Awards were created to acknowledge staff who work tirelessly to make sure that those who seek relief from unlawful discrimination receive the service and consideration they deserve.

The staff who received this year's awards consistently went above and beyond the call of duty.

Ten awards were presented: Outstanding Team Leader; Excellence in Investigation (3); Administrative/Clerical; Education and Community Service; Excellence in Safety; Legal; and Homer C. Floyd Pinnacle Award. The Homer Floyd Pinnacle Award is the highest honor presented in honor of the PHRC past director.

Congratulations to our Star Award Winners! Thanks for your hard work.

Homer C. Floyd Pinnacle Award
Ann Van Dyke



Education and Community Service Award
Tameka Hatcher

Puppy Guidelines

Did you know that existing law around support dogs does not clearly provide guidance for trainers to train puppies?

Guidelines Concerning Policies or Practices that Unlawfully Exclude Puppy Raisers as Handlers or Trainers of Guide or Support Animals' Access

to Public Accommodations were developed by the PHRC in response to inquiries that were received through our website/email. Inquirers were looking for clarification on this issue.

Guidelines were drafted and posted on the PHRC

website for comments in June. Comments were received and reviewed.

Both comments received and the final guidelines will be posted in the near future on the PHRC's website. Stay tuned to www.phrc.state.pa.us

PHRC Employee Star Awards Continued



Legal Award
Morgan Williams



Administrative/Clerical
Regina Young



Excellence in Investigation Award
Ekaette Oduok and David Codori



Excellence in Investigation Award - Mary Jane McMillian and Outstanding Team Leader Award - Jinada Rochelle (photos forthcoming)



Excellence in Safety Award
Sheldon Murray for Philadelphia Reg. Office
