



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHRC announces creation of Adams County Advisory Council and upcoming community Implicit Bias training

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) is announcing the creation of an advisory council in Adams County. The Adams County Council has established three officers: Kierstan Belle, Chairperson; Rev. Martin Zimmann, PhD, Vice-Chair; and Lisa Josey, Secretary.

“PHRC Advisory Councils are essential to the fostering of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion for all people within our great Commonwealth,” said Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW, Executive Director of the PHRC

An advisory council is created by the PHRC and is composed of nonpartisan and nonpolitical individual community members who serve without compensation in an advisory capacity to the PHRC to:

- Assist the public in the practice of equal opportunity through the elimination of discrimination as defined in the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.
- Assist the PHRC in ascertaining the extent to which equal opportunities are available in the community for employment, housing, public accommodations, and education and to look for new such opportunities.
- Increase citizen awareness of the existence and purposes of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

“As a life-long Adams County resident, I wholeheartedly appreciate advocates for their stance on equity and inclusion. Unfortunately, discrimination is still alive and well. The Adams County Advisory Council is here to connect and protect our community. With various groups, we’ll collaborate, educate, and affirm the rights of all who exist in this historic and beautiful piece of Pennsylvania,” stated Kierstan Belle, Adams County Advisory Council Chairperson.

The Adams County Advisory Council is co-sponsoring free community trainings on Implicit Bias, along with the United Lutheran Seminary on October 17th and 18th. PHRC Civil Rights Enforcement Educational Outreach Coordinator Stacey Waters will facilitate these trainings. More details and registration are available at: <https://ulsforms.wufoo.com/forms/implicit-bias-training/>.

The PHRC is Pennsylvania’s leading civil rights enforcement agency. The PHRC is empowered to create advisory councils to assist the Commission in achieving its purpose of addressing and eliminating discrimination against individuals or groups by reason of their race, color, familial status, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness, or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide through the denial of equal

employment, housing, or public accommodations. For more information about PHRC's work, go to: www.phrc.pa.gov/

MEDIA CONTACT: Chad Dion Lassiter

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