

Status of the Task Force on Race Relations Recommendations

Initiative	Responsible Agency	Program Description	Status
Study Circles	Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)	Hire Coordinator to implement Study Circles on Race Program in Madison	The EOC initially hired the Urban League of Greater Madison to implement and coordinate this program. In its second year, the City opted to hire a coordinator. The coordinator position was housed in the Mayor's office. The City has now contracted with Benavides Consulting to coordinate the program. It is being referred to as "Respectful Dialogs" at this time.
Joint Funding for Housing Testing Program	EOC	Provide funding for in the City budget or through a contract with an agency to test allegations of fair housing violations.	Initially, funds were not available for a testing program. The EOC entered into a work-sharing plan with the Fair Housing Center to conduct testing of fair housing allegations occurring in Madison. Funds have been included in the EOC's 2005 budget for a contract for fair housing testing.
Increase EOC Education and Outreach Programs to Preschool Children	EOC	Develop program for reading to preschool children.	The EOC developed a program using guest readers in 2001. The first year the program took place at Wexford Ridge Community Center. By 2004, the program had expanded to Bridge/Lakepoint and the Northport/Packers Apartments. The program used guest readers to provide the children with exposure to different cultures. Each child received a book each month to take home. In fall 2004, the program was turned over to the Madison Metropolitan School District's Even Start Program and the program is continuing at the Northport and Packers Headstart sites.
Retail Business Training Program to Prevent Racial Profiling	EOC	EOC developed a training program for retail establishments on Retail Racial Profiling.	The Power Point presentation was presented at various retailers throughout Madison between 2002 and 2004. The program is still available upon request.
Develop Program to Outreach Southeast Asian Community	EOC	Hire or contract part time outreach coordinator; form a team of City staff, service agencies, and Southeast Asian community members to plan a community dialog.	The EOC contracted with the Madison Metropolitan School District for the services of Thuy Pham-Remele to develop a training program for City employees. A videotape of the training was also produced. Pham-Remele assisted the EOC in setting up a series of meetings with leaders from the Cambodian, Chinese, Hmong, Lao, Tibetan and Vietnamese communities to share information on City services and explore ways to eliminate barriers to the communities' access to these services. These meetings were completed in 2003.

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Organize Quarterly Meetings with Madison Media and Representatives of Racial/Ethnic Communities	EOC	Meet with key community leaders and media representatives to explore formation of an on-going consortium to combat stereotyping of persons of color	<p>Race and Media Forums were held quarterly to provide an opportunity for individuals in the community to dialog with representatives from the media on concerns relative to media coverage. These dialogs continued through 2004. Efforts are underway to transfer coordination of the program out of the EOC. A planning group has been formed and is exploring options. The next Forum is tentatively scheduled for February 2005.</p> <p>A Summer Media Institute was developed as an off-shoot of the Forums to address the issues of recruitment and retention of individuals of color by the media through the concept of “grow your own.” Each year 10-12 high school age students are selected to participate in a 5-week program of combined classroom instruction and hands on experience in the field of journalism. Area media outlets fund the program with classroom instruction provided by Edgewood High School in partnership with the Simpson Street Free Press. In the spring of 2004, the Simpson Street Free Press absorbed the program. The Race and Media Group continues to provide program support. Planning is on track for the 2005 Institute to begin in mid-June.</p>