

Minority & Justice Implementation Committee

Press Release: Minority and Justice Implementation Committee Holding Town Hall Meetings.

The Nebraska Supreme Court and the Nebraska State Bar Association, with the assistance of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, established the Minority and Justice Task Force to determine whether there is actual or perceived racial/ethnic bias or discrimination in the Nebraska justice system and make recommendations to the Supreme Court on how to address any identified inequities. As part of a three-year investigation of Nebraska's justice system, the Minority and Justice Task Force traveled to communities across Nebraska, soliciting testimony from the public on issues relevant to race and ethnicity in the courts. The testimony gathered at these public hearings played a critical role in illustrating minority's perceptions of the justice system. Among others, public testimony identified problems such as: a lack of quality interpreter services, court systems that are not representative of the communities they serve, and perceived sentencing disparities.

The major recommendation of the Final Report was to establish a standing committee to implement the Task Force's recommendations. The Minority and Justice Implementation Committee, consisting of a racially and ethnically diverse group of judges, lawyers and community leaders, has been formed and has critically reviewed the recommendations made in the Final Report.

As a follow-up to the 2002 public hearings, the Implementation Committee will be returning to the communities from which it solicited information. In addition to reporting back to the communities involved in the 2002 public hearings, the Implementation Committee views these town hall meetings as an opportunity to answer questions and inform the public as to the findings of the Minority and Justice Task Force Report. More importantly, the Committee will also be discussing several of the initiatives they are undertaking to address problems in the state's justice system. Public feedback is invited. Spanish translators will be in attendance at each meeting.

The first town hall meeting is scheduled on October 7th from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Teacher Administrative Center in Omaha. The Implementation Committee will also be holding town hall meetings in: Lincoln (October 16th); Grand Island (November 2nd); Lexington (November 10th); North Platte (November 12th); South Omaha (November, 17th); Norfolk (December 1st); South Sioux City (December 4th); and Scottsbluff (December 8th).

**Minority and Justice Implementation Committee
Town Hall Meeting Schedule**

Omaha	Oct 7 th	TAC, 6:30-8:30 pm
Lincoln	Oct 16 th	The Malone Center, 6:30-8:30 pm
Grand Island	Nov 2 nd	Walnut Middle School Auditorium 2:30-4:30
Lexington	Nov 10 th	St, Ann's Parish Center, 6:30-8:30
North Platte	Nov 12 th	Mid Plains Community College, 6:30-8:30
Omaha	Nov 17 th	Guadalupe Center, 6:30-8:30
Norfolk	Dec 1 st	Norfolk High School Auditorium, 6:30-8:30
South Sioux City	Dec 4 th	St. Michael's Church, 6:30-8:30
Scottsbluff	Dec 8 th	Guadalupe Center, 6:30-8:30

For more information about the Implementation Committee or the Town Hall Meetings contact:

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