

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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IMPORTANCE OF POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS:

Strong relationships of mutual trust between police agencies and the communities they serve are critical to maintaining public safety and effective policing. Police officials rely on the cooperation of community members to provide information about crime in their neighborhoods, and to work with the police to devise solutions to crime and disorder problems. Similarly community members' willingness to trust the police depends on whether they believe police actions reflect community values and incorporate the principles of procedural justice and legitimacy.

In the wake of recent incidents involving police use of force and other issues, the legitimacy of the police has been questioned in many communities. Many cities in the United States experienced largescale demonstrations and peaceful protest marches in 2020 and 2021, and in some cases, there have been riots because of alleged police misconduct and excessive use of force. It is imperative that police agencies make improving relationships a top priority with the local communities they serve.

For more information on how to improve Police-Community relationships: <https://www.justice.gov/crs/file/836486/download>



Promoting Harmony & Respect among a Diverse Citizenry of our State Community Relations Councils

SCHAC: strives to alleviate unlawful discrimination through the enforcement of the South Carolina Human Affairs Law, the South Carolina Fair Housing Law, and the South Carolina Equal Enjoyment and Privileges to Public Accommodations Law. Additionally, state law mandates the Commission monitor South Carolina state government employment practices to ensure fair representation. The Commission also seeks to establish Community Relations Councils throughout the state to foster more effective community relations, goodwill and mutual understanding, and respect among the residents of South Carolina.

RCSD and SC Department of Mental Health launch Crisis Intervention Team:

RICHLAND COUNTY, S.C. — In 2021, the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health created a new partnership to help persons in the community experiencing a mental health crisis.

In 2020, the department received over 2,700 calls related to a mental health crisis. The department set goals to address this situation. They sent more than 70 deputies to a 40-hour training program on crisis intervention. Additionally, in 2019, every deputy went through a four hour training.

The Richland County Sheriff's Department said in a press release, "The goal of the Crisis Intervention Team is to reduce custodial arrests; reduce the strain on the judicial system; decrease unnecessary and expensive emergency room visits for individuals in behavioral health crisis; improve access and referral to community services; provide an immediate response to crisis situations; and to provide post-incident follow up by working with individuals, family members and caregivers to reduce the likelihood of a new crisis situation arising."

As of February 2021, the SC Criminal Justice Academy updated their approved Mental Illness Training for Police Officers: <https://sccja.sc.gov/news/2021-02/updated-list->

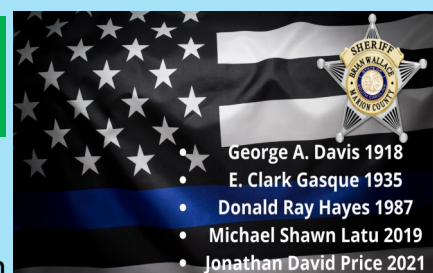
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT- AUGUST 3RD

[approved-mental-illness-training](#)

National Night Out is fast approaching. Time to plan for an evening of police-community partnership building.

A National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. The event focuses on the community and raising awareness through camaraderie. By improving relationships, the hope is to make our neighborhoods safer.

For more information, please visit: www.natw.org



Honoring Courage, Saluting Sacrifice

Please join the Marion County Sheriff's Office as we pay tribute to the brave men who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty for our citizens.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 10:00am

Marion County Sheriff's Office
(Former Pee Dee Electric Building)
1811 North 501 Bypass
Marion, South Carolina 29571



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Current CRCs:
Columbia, Allendale, Anderson, Beaufort, Greenville, Greenwood, Lancaster, Lee, McCormick, Myrtle Beach, Rock Hill, Orangeburg



April 13th
Lexington
Chief
Terrance
Green
welcomed
participants
of the 2021
Citizen's

Police Academy to the first night of the program. The Citizen's Police Academy will meet once a week for the next nine weeks and participants will learn about the work of Lexington Police Officers, about each division and specialized units, hands-on demonstrations, and more.

Interested in the Citizen's Police Academy? Visit the LPD website for more information <https://www.lexsc.com/349/Citizens-Police-Academy>

SC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MONUMENT



Dedicated February 15, 2006. This monument is a memorial to the men and women of South Carolina Law Enforcement that have fallen in the line of duty.

Annual Event Calendar
for
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

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 Day, 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