



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee (CRC)



2026 Annual Report

Prepared for the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

CRC At-A-Glance

MISSION: CRC empowers, collaborates, engages and promotes opportunities to create positive outcomes.

Current Membership: 30 of 45 seats filled

- Charlotte Mayor appoints eight members
- Charlotte City Council appoints 16 members
- Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners appoints 21 members

CRC's Primary Functions:

- Provide authentic feedback on community issues
- Assist in the facilitation of communication between the committee, community, and elected officials
- Promote community harmony, civic opportunities, respect, and understanding among all residents
- Advocate for access and opportunity across Charlotte-Mecklenburg



Committee Structure

CRC LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE



- Increase community awareness about programs and services
- Work with staff to address community concerns

PUBLIC RELATIONS



- CRC Newsletter
- Speaking (in the community)
- Speaker Series - CRC meetings
- Identify partnership opportunities

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CULTURAL EVENTS



- Annual MLK Celebration events
- Police-Community Relations Awards
- Community festivals/events

— Committee Highlights



Annual Charlotte-Mecklenburg MLK Celebration: Lead/host engaging activities and meaningful awards programs that honor Dr. King's legacy.



Police-Community Relations Awards: Lead/host annual awards program honoring CMPD officers who go above and beyond to foster meaningful connections with residents and neighborhood groups.

— Committee Highlights

Expanded visibility through participation in community events.

- Live Well Meck Tour
- National Night Out
- Breast Cancer Awareness Walk
- MeckMIN Community Leader Awards Breakfast
- Community Building Initiative Breakfast
- Faith & Safety Conversation
- Let's Talk About It – CMPD Series
- Film Screening and Community Conversation

Expanded reach through collaboration and communication.

- CRC Speaker Series - A feature of the CRC monthly meetings that has led to partnership opportunities.
- CRC Newsletter – Distribution includes 3,500+ subscribers and promotion through networks, lists, and contacts.





Community Relations Department

— Community Relations Divisions

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Program

ADA guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities.

- Fifteen citywide ADA training sessions conducted in FY26.
- Six Lunch & Learns held in FY26 focused on disability awareness, accessibility topics, and community resources.
- Physical barriers removed in FY26: 308. Currently tracking the remaining 7,149 physical barriers.
- The City of Charlotte received 68 ADA inquiries and filled 10 ASL interpreting requests in FY26.
- Individuals can file ADA complaints and grievances (within 60 days of the alleged violation) to the Community Relations ADA program office at charlotteADA@charlottenc.gov.

Community Affairs

- Participated in 15+ community events, staffed resource tables, and presented at partner meetings.
- Identified new opportunities for programs, outreach, and engagement initiatives that foster a stronger sense of connection and understanding.
- Continued work to build and strengthen police-community relations.
- Increased efforts to maintain long-standing partnerships that promote community harmony.

— Community Relations Divisions

Dispute Settlement Program

- Continued to provide weekly mediation services in Private Warrant Court and 50C court.
- Mediation referrals: 925; cases mediated/conciliated: 820.
- Criminal justice dollars saved: \$121,600.
- Collected \$30,660 in restitution for complainants because of successful mediations.
- Received and processed 985 calls regarding our services.
- Continued to recruit and train new volunteer mediators.
- Continued to foster partnerships with CMPD, Sheriff's Office, Courts, City and County departments.
- Increased education and outreach efforts.

Fair Housing

- Opened 24 inquiries for investigation and closed 18. The monetary relief received for complainants during that time totals \$6,687. Most complaints were race and disability related.
- The Nondiscrimination Ordinance program opened seven inquiries for investigation and closed five. The total dollars received through conciliation is \$6,950.78. Most complaints were based on disability.
- Five Source of Income inquiries, but none meeting elements of jurisdiction for investigation.



CRC Outlook

— Three-Year Strategic Focus

Year One – Disruptive

- Committee restructure
- Understanding roles
- Revisit mission, values, goals

Year Two – Growth

- Increase community engagement initiatives
- Form strategic partnerships
- Develop a community conversation series



Year Three – Stabilizing

- Retain 100% membership and engagement
- Strong leadership transition
- Continue the process of strategic planning



Needs, Support, and Looking Ahead

- Consider reducing the threshold of members to 30 – this will allow room for more engagement.
 - Partnership with countywide initiatives – how can CRC get more involved?
-
- Explore opportunities for CRC community service projects.
 - Increase participation at various cultural events.
 - Increase visibility of CRC initiatives and members.

THANK YOU!

Sam Smith Jr.
CRC Chair
smisamjr@gmail.com



Terry Bradley
Interim Community Relations Director
terry.bradley@charlottenc.gov

Thank you for your continued support of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee. We feel our partnership is vital to a healthy community in promoting harmony, facilitating resolution and celebrating diversity.