Page 1 1 MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE 2 U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS 3 5 6 7 8 COMMUNITY FORUM 9 ON 10 Civil Rights Issues in Eastern Shore Maryland 1412 13 14 15 Saturday, June 23, 2001 16 17 18 U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS 19 Reported By: Marian Cummings Original



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               12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
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             Saturday, June 23, 2001
      Government Office Building, Room 301
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              125 Division Street
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              Salisbury, Maryland
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Community Forum

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1	MEMBERS PRESENT:	
2	K. PATRICK OKURA, Chair	
3	REVEREND DOUGLAS SANDS, JR., Vice Chair	
4	EDWARD DARDEN	
5	ANNE LEE	
6	JENKINS ODOMS, JR.	
7	DR. DEBRA LEMKE	
8	MARY LOUISE JONES	
9	LEA A. GILMORE	
10	MARIANA A. PARDO	
11	REV. DOUGLAS SANDS, SR.	
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	Page 4
1	PROCEEDINGS
2	MR. OKURA: According to the minutes we didn't
3	have too many of our advisory committee members there,
4	there are five or six there, however, there were close
5	to 20 some people who appeared before the committee and
6	it turned out to be a very successful meeting so do we
7	have any corrections or additions to the minutes or do
8	we have a motion to accept the minutes as mailed to us?
9	MR. DARDEN: As mailed there are some
10	typographical errors. At item number 3 on the second
11	page under community forum instead of Virginia that
12	should be Maryland advisory committee.
13	MR. OKURA: Any other corrections, additions,
14	deletions?
15	MR. DARDEN: Mr. Chairman, since a number of
16	the members were absent maybe some of them haven't even
17	read the minutes, do you think we ought to take a moment
18	to either read portions of the minutes out loud so that
19	everyone is acquainted with the contents, would that be-

ESQUIRE DEPOSITION SERVICES

MR. ODOMS: Yes, please.

20

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useful?

Okay, I'll try to excerpt this as MR. DARDEN: 1 The minutes of March meeting, the meeting 2 I go along. on Saturday, March 31st, in Lexington Park, Maryland as 3 the chairman mentioned there were 26 or 27 participants 4 named in the minutes and then under the summary of items 5 6 discussed and actions taken the first section dealing -- with the community forum itself described the three-part 7 8 project of which the Lexington Park community forum was the first, the Eastern Shore forum would be the second, 9 10 and the western Maryland forum would be the third. 11 Five panels were called in Lexington Park, beginning with an expert presentation on census in 12 13 southern Maryland by a representative of the Tri-County 14 council of Southern Maryland which is a government planning and coordinating body. 15 16 The next three panels were county focused 17 presentations by minority community representatives who 18 described civil rights complaints and concerns, and the 19 concluding panel of civil rights agency representatives 20 included officials of the state's education department 21 and comments on law enforcement in the counties.

- 1 In the planning discussion portion of the
- 2 meeting there were five points, the first one deals with
- 3 the committee's Baltimore report titled Municipal
- 4 Services, Public Safety and Justice System Get Equal
- 5 Treatment. Committee member Debra Lemke reported that
- 6 she had drafted a executive summary of the transcript
- 7 and that because of various delays dealing with computer
- 8 problems as well as other assignments we were still in
- 9 the process and staff agreed to provide a copy of her of
- 10 the earlier executive summary.
- 11 Staff described the Delaware SAC informal
- 12 discussion in February regarding prospective joint
- 13 projects and the Maryland advisory committee named
- 14 Gilmore, Odoms and Sands and any other members who
- wished to participate to serve as representatives to the
- 16 staff effort to bring together joint projects of those
- 17 three states, those three committees. And Jenkins Odoms
- 18 reported that preparation for the Salisbury forum on
- June 23 were proceeding and we discussed where to have
- 20 the meeting. University of Maryland was considered.
- Under point four committee and vice chair

- 1 Douglas Sands circulated get well cards to the members
- 2 to send to Pat Okura and to Chester Wickwire. Pat was
- 3 recovering at home from recent stomach surgery and
- 4 Wickwire was recovering from emergency hip replacement
- 5 surgery following an accidental fall that broke his hip
- 6 bone a few days before the meeting.
- Both members would be recuperating for several
- 8 weeks and sent their requests for being absent. And
- 9 there was an unanimous approval of the minutes of the
- 10 previous meeting. That's the synopsis of the minutes
- 11 from March 31st. They were reviewed on behalf of the
- 12 chairperson by the vice chairperson Douglas Sands.
- 13 Although this copy doesn't show your signature, Doug, we
- 14 have that on file.
- Any questions about the minutes? I wanted to
- 16 be sure that we all covered it because I thought that we
- would use this planning session to address some of the
- 18 points from the previous meeting as old business and
- 19 after we finish with this particular action we can
- 20 continue on with the discussion of old business.
- MR. ODOMS: Okay, a motion in place,

- 1 Mr. Chairman, I move that. A second?
- 2 REV. SANDS: Second.
- 3 MR. DARDEN: Sands seconded.
- 4 MR. OKURA: It's been moved and seconded that
- 5 we accept the minutes as explained and outlined by Ed
- 6 Darden in detail in terms of the minutes so with that
- 7 explanation I think we're ready to vote to accept the
- 8 minutes. All those in favor signify by saying aye.
- 9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- MR. OKURA: Opposed?
- The motion is carried and minutes will be
- 12 recorded as explained by Ed.
- Now, I just want to take a minute to thank
- 14 everyone for their prayers and get-well wishes and so on
- 15 because I think it really helped because I received
- 16 hundreds of cards from my church members, my other
- 17 friends, and so on and visits and so on, and I've been
- 18 up and around for the last month and a half.
- I just completed four months since my surgery
- 20 and I'm feeling good except I lost so much weight. I
- lost close to 30 pounds and I've only gained back about

- 1 ten pounds and everyone I talk to says well, we'll give
- 2 you ten pounds of mine, I'm trying to lose weight and
- 3 here I'm trying to gain weight. But I think by the next
- 4 couple of months, by 6 months' time I will have gained
- 5 everything back and I'll be back in full swing.
- The last month or so I've been attending
- 7 meetings. I had a board meeting of the National Mental
- 8 Health Association that I belong to as a board member
- 9 and so last -- two weeks ago I attended and I felt okay.
- 10 So I'm in fairly good condition except that I need to
- 11 gain back my strength which I'm lacking a little.
- So I want to, again, thank everyone for their
- 13 support and their prayers and so on and I think that's
- 14 helped me a great deal in recovering as fast as I have.
- 15 (Applause)
- MR. DARDEN: Some of the members may not know
- 17 but I went to see one of the celebrations because there
- were a number of them when Pat turned the magical number
- of 88, which in Japanese culture is a high honor because
- 20 it's good luck both to reach 88 and also because the
- 21 numbers themselves, I think, create a kind of a

- 1 pictogram that's of luck; is that right?
- 2 MR. OKURA: Right, and you can interpret 88,
- 3 the character, and it also means rice, you read it as
- 4 rice and rice is a staple in Japan and it's the thing
- 5 that brings everyone together and it means prosperity,
- 6 good luck and all the positive things in life, so when
- 7 one reaches 88 I guess he's reached a level.
- 8 But now that I'm approaching my 90th which
- 9 will be in a couple of months, September, so I'm
- 10 planning to have a large celebration on the 90th
- 11 birthday and I don't know what 90 means but anyway, I
- 12 reached that peak and I don't feel 90 years old.
- But when I look back and I think wow, by the
- 14 year 2000 a lot of the problems I had faced in the 20s
- and 30s and 40s would be solved by our country but if
- 16 you read last week's or this week the Post, that whole
- 17 page article on discrimination it's still here, it's
- 18 still very active, there's more vicious crimes around
- 19 the country and we still have the same problems so I
- 20 guess our work is not completed yet and I don't know
- 21 when we'll ever get to the point where we will have

- 1 peace in the world.
- But someone told me yesterday, says we'll
- 3 never have peace in the world because there are too many
- 4 factions. Well, at least I hope we can have peace in
- 5 this country of ours by the time I'm 99, that we'd have
- 6 reached that point but in some ways it's rather
- 7 discouraging to read articles like that the other day,
- 8 yet we made progress in certain areas. On the other
- 9 hand, there seems to be somewhat of an undercurrent
- 10 feeling within Washington D.C. especially of anti --
- 11 feelings against immigration, against all people of
- 12 color and so on so we still have that to face.
- MR. DARDEN: Thank you. I'm reminded that I
- 14 guess, how does it go, a strong mind in a strong body or
- 15 a strong body in a strong mind? I think Pat is an
- 16 example of a strong will and a strong mind keeping his
- 17 body going. So as long as he has that he's going to
- 18 keep on going for 99, Energizer Bunny.
- I wanted to bring a couple of announcements
- 20 about our attendance for today and, you know, usually
- 21 the advisory committee takes an action on absent

- 1 members.
- 2 First of all, I'd like to compliment the
- 3 committee on the really strong turnout today. We have
- 4 virtually the entire committee present. Thank you very
- 5 much. I know it's a trip or can be an arduous one to
- 6 get across that Bay Bridge, everyone had to come that
- 7 way, so I appreciate your making the effort and
- 8 sacrifice to do that.
- 9 Chester Wickwire just two days ago telephoned
- 10 and left a message that he's had a second fall so
- 11 unfortunately he won't be with us today for that reason.
- 12 I was really a little unnerved not only because you
- don't want to see that happening to Chester but I had
- 14 resolved to myself to go visit him before now and I
- 15 haven't had a chance to do that so I really want to try
- 16 to get over to see him just to be sure that he's okay.
- MS. LEE: Is he back in the hospital again?
- 18 MR. DARDEN: The message came from home so I
- 19 believe he's at home.
- 20 Bassam Sayad is on work detail in Bharain so
- 21 he's in the Middle East and won't be back for several

- 1 months, he won't be with us. And Art Nierenberg who is
- 2 continuing to write his book is occupied as well. Those
- 3 are the only three members who are absent and so we have
- 4 a very strong showing. I suppose I'd recommend as a
- 5 staff person that we extend excused absences for all
- 6 three of them.
- 7 REV. SANDS: Mr. Chairman, I so move.
- MR. OKURA: Second.
- 9 REV. SANDS: Do I hear a second?
- 10 MS. LEE: Second.
- MR. OKURA: All those in favor of accepting
- 12 the three absent members as excused absencés please say
- 13 aye.
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- MR. OKURA: Opposed?
- Okay, so we will record the minutes to show
- 17 that all three are excused absences due to various
- 18 conditions.
- MR. DARDEN: There are just two other items I
- 20 wanted to report on coming out of the minutes as old
- 21 business.

- 1 First of all, I wanted to refer back to our
- 2 earlier plans for a meeting at the University of
- 3 Maryland and explain why we're not there. Doug Sands
- 4 and Debra Lemke -- Salisbury State, I'm sorry --
- 5 Salisbury State, put quite a bit of effort into
- 6 attempting but that venue is very popular. I guess you
- 7 all can explain what happened.
- 8 REV. SANDS: Well, they did not want to accept
- 9 a group as small as ours. They wanted a minimum of 75
- 10 people in attendance and at least one meeting that they
- 11 provide in order to make the profit that they make on
- 12 having gatherings there.
- MR. DARDEN: And we asked Deb Lemke to look
- 14 into alternative sites and you found out that --
- MS. LEMKE: The only hotel place that seemed
- 16 to have a meeting room was the Ramada where we're all
- 17 staying and the rooms were too small for anyone to
- 18 actually meet. I think they had a capacity of 25 or
- 19 something like that so for an open forum it wasn't
- 20 possible but the rooms are nice.
- MR. DARDEN: So that led us to looking for a

- 1 different site and of course with the emphasis on
- 2 community participation we wanted a place that would be
- 3 readily -- would be very recognizable and easy to get to
- 4 and we made contact here at the city council chambers,
- 5 which is why we're here today.
- Just for the record to explain what happened
- 7 this morning I -- we still don't know exactly but for
- 8 some reason the guard who did let us in yesterday
- 9 decided to change his plan from opening up the building
- 10 at 8:30 instead to opening up the building at 11
- 11 o'clock. And he made that decision based on, he
- 12 reports, two things, first, a notice in the newspaper
- 13 that our meeting would start at 12:30, and then second,
- 14 a report, a confirmation that he got from a contact
- 15 person that indeed the meeting would be starting at
- 16 12:30 and so for that reason he assumed that the earlier
- instructions to open up the room at 8:30 must have been
- 18 changed and so he changed his plans. That left us
- 19 standing on the sidewalk.
- 20 REV. SANDS: That's all right, Ed, that's
- 21 fine.

- 1 MR. DARDEN: I was here at 8:30 to get into
- 2 the building and to set up the room. We'll still have
- 3 to find out who that contact person was but I think
- 4 there is one part of that story I do want to explain.
- 5 It is true that our press releases and the
- 6 other announcements with the exception of the Federal
- 7 Register notice do give 12:30 as the time and that's
- 8 because we didn't want to confuse the public. This part
- 9 of our meeting we expected would not be of much interest
- 10 to the public and so we instead of having them come here
- 11 at 9:30 and then have to sit around until 12:30 we just
- 12 announced 12:30, which is the start of the forum this
- 13 afternoon.
- 14 The other thing was that, oh, yeah, in
- 15 Lexington Park we did have a fair number of government
- 16 types, even police officers, making presentations. We
- 17 did that almost as a way of filling up the agenda
- 18 because leading up to Lexington Park we found that the
- 19 community response to our notices didn't show that we
- 20 would have an overwhelming number of speakers.
- 21 Lexington Park, the southern Maryland area is a much

- 1 smaller geographic area than the Eastern Shore and in
- 2 addition to that the number of contacts, and I suppose
- 3 you could even say that the organizational structures
- 4 compared to southern Maryland are much more developed
- 5 here in the Eastern Shore. So we returned in
- 6 preparation for this forum to the emphasis on citizen
- 7 participation. And rather than putting into our agenda
- 8 and somewhat crowding our agenda with government types
- 9 that will be able to get their input later on certainly,
- 10 even the police officers, we put our emphasis on
- 11 community and citizen participation.
- 12 And I wanted to explain why the lineup in the
- 13 agenda is slightly different this time than the last
- 14 time. We didn't invite the police departments in
- 15 addition to what I just mentioned because also here on-
- 16 the Eastern Shore, even in Salisbury, there's a real
- 17 history with police community relations that we didn't
- 18 want to stir up and perhaps lead to some sense of
- 19 intimidation because of the police being on our agenda
- 20 so we tried to avoid that as well.
- 21 And I think we did succeed somewhat in getting

- 1 a fairly full and robust turnout from the community
- 2 level. Jenkins Odoms and Anne Lee have been the two
- 3 people, and sorry, Doug Sands, the three people, who
- 4 have been most involved with the office and trying to
- 5 pull this together and I'm sure once we get a little
- 6 closer we'll have a chance to talk about all that they
- 7 did but Jenkins, is there any comment you wanted to make
- 8 on our effort to outreach into the community and get a
- 9 broad representation of citizen level concerns here in
- 10 the Eastern Shore?
- MR. ODOMS: No, at this time I see the panel
- is well equipped to bring home the message that are
- 13 necessary so I don't have any comments at this time.
- MR. OKURA: I just want to make -- the press
- 15 releases, I think, were very effective because I
- 16 received four or five calls from citizens saying how do
- 17 we get on the agenda or how do we make -- and I said
- 18 well I don't have the details and I don't have the
- 19 agenda in front of me but please call Ed Darden at the
- office and he can give you -- did you get any calls?
- MR. DARDEN: Yes, we did.

- 1 MR. OKURA: Because I got at least four calls
- 2 from citizens who read the press release and says oh, I
- 3 see you're meeting in Salisbury, we want to be there we
- 4 want to make some comments how do I get on the program.
- 5 So it did have the effect that you wanted it to have so
- 6 I think we got a lot of -- I got a call from Chica--
- 7 [phonetic] when they heard about it and they said well,
- 8 we don't want to make a statement but we want to be
- 9 there. So I expect to see several people from Chica to
- 10 come down and attend the meeting and it did give the
- 11 coverage that you wanted it to and I think it's great,
- 12 especially in Eastern Shore where, as you say, there's a
- 13 history of anti-feeling about some of our concerns that
- 14 we get this kind of response so I think it had its
- 15 effect and it did well. And we want to thank Odoms for
- 16 all the work that he's put into getting all these people
- 17 together, Sands and others.
- 18 MS. LEE: I was a little disappointed to see
- 19 that Freddie Mitchell from I quess, Shore-Up or
- 20 Tricounty, and somebody from the Easton thing, the
- 21 neighborhood housing, people from Easton --

- 1 MR. DARDEN: They were invited.
- MS. LEE: I know they were invited, that came
- 3 out on the one paper I did receive. I'm kind of
- 4 disappointed that they're not here.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: Well, I think I brought a number
- of the response forms and the Shore-Up fellow didn't
- 7 give an explanation, he simply said that he had
- 8 scheduling conflicts and couldn't attend.
- 9 Just to give you an insight into how we
- 10 handled this, each of the identified perspective
- 11 panelists, and there were about 125, received a letter
- 12 from me giving the details, inviting them to
- 13 participate, giving them some instructions on how to
- 14 prepare. And then in addition to that we attached
- 15 something that looked like this, we're going to be using
- 16 it today, this panelist response form, and asked them to
- 17 mail, fax or telephone confirming their participation.
- 18 Of the 125 we received, I'd say, about 50 responses but
- of the 50 responses we got about 25 confirmed --
- 20 confirmations. That is a pretty good response rate.
- MS. LEE: I think what I was concerned about

- 1 is that in the press release, which is the only thing I
- 2 got from you-all, that must be where they said Freddie
- 3 Mitchell and the other person from Easton, that
- 4 two-sided press release.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: Yes. The press release preceded
- 6 our, some of the confirmations. What we used in the
- 7 press release were some examples of people who had been
- 8 invited.
- 9 MS. LEE: Yeah.
- MR. DARDEN: So I just wanted to give you some
- 11 explanation about the agenda and then I suppose before
- we take our break we can go over the agenda and prepare
- 13 for the meeting itself and talk about the roles that
- some members will play but before we go on, one old
- 15 piece of business that has to do with the Baltimore
- 16 report.
- 17 MR. OKURA: I was going to ask that guestion.
- 18 MR. DARDEN: Yeah, don't want to leave that.
- 19 After the last meeting, the regional director attended
- 20 the last meeting, unfortunately he won't be here today.
- 21 I should have mentioned this earlier, I bring his

- 1 regrets. He had plans to come. He just returned back
- 2 from three weeks in Korea visiting with his family and
- 3 is still suffering from the jet lag because it's a, you
- 4 know, it's a 12-hour time difference and even as late as
- 5 yesterday he was still planning to come but about 3
- 6 o'clock in the afternoon when his body was telling him
- 7 it was 3 o'clock a.m. he said I don't think I can make
- 8 it.
- 9 So he had plans to actually get in here this
- 10 morning about now but I don't think we'll see him today.
- 11 So but he was at the last meeting and had an opportunity
- 12 to contribute to our discussion and I'm going to pick up
- 13 from where he left off and let you know that the staff
- is still very much committed to the overall proposition
- of having a product result from each one of the advisory
- 16 committee's projects and this was a project which will
- 17 produce a report.
- The experiment of creating from the record a
- 19 kind of pared down product which would rely heavily on
- 20 the record itself, a transcript, and then put an
- 21 executive summary on top of it, which would tie then the

- 1 transcript to the topics that the executive summary
- 2 teased out of it, is what we've been turning to Deb to
- 3 help us with and that's been an excellent start, we're
- 4 still in the process.
- 5 One of the problems that perineally effects us
- 6 is a lack of staff resources as you know and here we
- 7 talk about all the time virtually everything that the
- 8 advisory committee does requires staff support. So to
- 9 the extent that we have over the past couple of years
- 10 tried to gin up the activities of the advisory
- 11 committees and the products coming out of advisory
- 12 committee activities it means that I've had to put more
- 13 time and effort in and but not necessarily up to the
- 14 level where we can work a whole lot faster so it still
- 15 takes a long time to even get from the last meeting
- 16 where we were prepared to pull something together and
- say to now where we thought perhaps we would have but I
- don't have a draft for you to review.
- One way -- but I do have some news and this is
- 20 what Ki-taek would have brought to you. He approached
- 21 the staff director on this staff resources question to

- 1 ask if we could try something different and that is to
- 2 utilize the resources of some of these independent
- 3 freelance writers who could take a small piece or take a
- 4 discrete assignment off of the shoulders of the staff,
- 5 me and Mark, so that things like the Baltimore report,
- 6 which always get pushed to the back as we pay attention
- 7 to the activities, the meetings, that we could do that
- 8 kind of work at the same time with that degree of
- 9 assistance.
- Now, I understand from Ki-taek this was just
- 11 before he left on his trip that the staff director had
- 12 agreed to we going into that kind of contract. Now,
- 13 that may seem like a somewhat of an innocuous thing to
- 14 agree to and in normal cases I'm sure it would be but
- 15 you have to remember that the GAO audit of the
- 16 Commission two years ago faulted us essentially only in
- one area. Well, there were a number of areas but the
- 18 main fault that they found was in sloppy recordkeeping
- 19 dealing with contracts. You know the government and in
- 20 an government audit that always raises suspicions that
- 21 somebody might be playing funny with the money so the

- 1 Commission since then has been terribly sensitive,
- 2 almost hypersensitive about contracts, and in the
- 3 government what that means is don't do it.
- 4 So to now return to do it and to allow us to
- 5 do this kind of thing is, I think, a credit to the
- 6 current staff director, Les James, who has only been in
- 7 the job six months but he's willing and he's a good
- 8 manager, he's willing to take this step as I think he
- 9 feels confident that he can satisfy whatever criticisms
- 10 there may have been in the past and really put in place
- 11 the kind of accountability that's required for this kind
- 12 of working government.
- We've interviewed two freelancers and I think
- 14 Ki-taek is even now, he's only been back from his trip a
- 15 couple of days, but starting next week will be meeting
- 16 with the freelancers and I've recommended and I believe
- 17 that he will accept the recommendation, that we turn
- 18 over the Baltimore report to the freelance, to one of
- 19 the freelancers who will get started with it within the
- 20 next, hopefully the next couple of weeks.
- 21 What that means is some of the concerns that

- 1 we had earlier about how to polish it and pare it down
- 2 to make it something that Deb could help us do given her
- 3 schedule since we were relying so heavily on her will be
- 4 relieved of that because we'll have someone who will be
- 5 working on it intensively full time as a freelancer.
- 6 MS. LEMKE: That's a good thing.
- 7 MR. DARDEN: For the record Deb says that's a
- 8 good thing.
- 9 MS. LEE: And it also allows someone who had
- 10 not been involved and they will make sure it's clear and
- 11 people can understand it.
- MS. LEMKE: Maybe this person who does writing
- 13 for a living can get there but the social scientist idea
- of paring it down is completely different from what I
- 15 wanted.
- MS. LEE: Can I ask you something completely
- 17 different. Can you tell us anything about the
- 18 controversy on the Florida report of the Commission?
- 19 Did they not get the reports before the press did?
- MR. DARDEN: Yeah, I can explain to you
- 21 exactly what happened. Just so that everybody

- 1 understands let's see, this is June, the Commission met
- 2 I think it was June the 6th, on that Friday and several
- 3 days, a few days before the meeting, national news broke
- 4 saying that the Commission, the Commission had found
- 5 that the Florida election had been fraught with all
- 6 kinds of irregularities.
- 7 There were two commissioners in particular who
- 8 complained that the Commission hadn't yet seen the
- 9 report, the commissioners hadn't yet seen the report,
- 10 yet it was being reported on in the media so therefore
- 11 somebody who had access to the report had leaked it and
- 12 that that was a very serious breach, something that
- 13 should not have happened and perhaps was intentionally
- 14 done for political reasons.
- So that was at the heart of the controversy
- and the tension going into the Commission's meeting on
- 17 the 6th. The two members, the two commissioners who
- 18 were most upset about this, one is the lone Republican,
- 19 we have only one Republican member, her name is Abigail
- 20 Thurnstrom and she's a nationally recognized writer on
- 21 race relations and has a couple of books in that area

- 1 and has been on the Commission only since just before
- 2 the that Florida hearings in February. And then one of
- 3 the independent members, Russell Redenbaugh, who is a
- 4 long-term commissioner and in the past has frequently as
- 5 an independent been in the Republican caucus, I learned
- 6 about how this worked now that Jeffrey is in it. Mary
- 7 Barry, by the way, is an independent and not a Democrat.
- 8 Those two commissioners before the commission
- 9 meeting issued their own highly critical press release
- 10 saying that they thought the chairperson, Mary Barry,
- 11 was behind the leak. So at the meeting Mary Barry
- 12 didn't refer to the press release but certainly took
- 13 head on the question about the report and how it was
- 14 handled, what would go on next so that the business of
- 15 considering the report could go forward.
- And just to get to the -- to cut to the chase,
- it did go forward and the majority of commissioners
- 18 adopted what was presented to them that day. So the
- 19 Florida report has been officially accepted and is being
- 20 prepared as we speak for publication.
- MS. LEE: Thank you.

- 1 MR. DARDEN: What she said, what Mary Barry
- 2 said was the commissioners at its previous meeting in
- 3 June decided on a process because of the really fast
- 4 pace of producing this report by which the staff would
- 5 continue to work on the report until three or four days
- 6 before the Commission meeting and the draft report would
- 7 be distributed to the commissioners at that time so they
- 8 would have at least three or four days prior, that was
- 9 done.
- 10 MS. LEE: It was done?
- MR. DARDEN: It was done.
- MS. LEE: Because the one fellow I saw on the
- 13 television said he was blind and it would take 180 hours
- 14 for someone to read it to him and he didn't have it.
- MR. DARDEN: That was Commissioner Redenbaugh.
- 16 Commissioner Redenbaugh does have his material read to
- 17 him. All I can say is that on the one hand you had
- 18 Commissioner Redenbaugh and Commissioner Thurnstrom
- 19 saying they had expected and even saying they thought
- 20 the rules called for 30 days, having the report 30 days
- 21 prior to Commission action on it, but on the opposite

- 1 side of that you had the chairperson and the record of
- 2 the previous meeting setting out this process that I
- 3 just described where they had agreed to something
- 4 different.
- 5 MS. LEE: Okay, thank you.
- 6 MS. GILMORE: I have a question.
- 7 MR. DARDEN: Yes.
- 8 MS. GILMORE: So the press release given by
- 9 the two members who are upset over what happened did
- 10 they do this as members of the Commission? Are there
- 11 not some type of regulations or something where you
- 12 cannot do that?
- MR. DARDEN: Well, no, let me explain because
- 14 the same sort of thing applies to you-all. Each one of
- 15 you is a member and as an individual you may say
- 16 whatever you wish so long as you don't purport to be
- 17 speaking on behalf of the entire body and that's how
- 18 these two commissioners were speaking, not as members.
- 19 MS. JONES: As individuals.
- MS. GILMORE: They have first amendment
- 21 protection, constitutional protection to do that.

- 1 MR. DARDEN: Sure, yeah, but of course the
- 2 reason why that is significant is it is the action of
- 3 the committee that really has weight so you can speak as
- 4 an individual but in terms of the position of the agency
- 5 that only comes as a result of the whole body, you know,
- 6 taking an action.
- 7 MS. LEE: Is it true what also I read that Al
- 8 Gore's lawyers did all the report?
- 9 MR. DARDEN: No, that's not true at all.
- 10 Well, the report was written by the general counsel's,
- 11 by our general counsel's office, the lawyers in our
- 12 general counsel's office. When they returned from the
- 13 hearings and the interviews after February it became
- 14 readily apparent from the material that they gathered
- 15 that there were some fundamental questions raised by the
- 16 allegations that they heard that required more expertise
- 17 than the lawyers had.
- 18 And in order to -- and specifically what they
- 19 wanted to answer were questions like whether or to what
- 20 extent a pattern, there was a racial pattern in the
- 21 spoiled ballots or in the voting overall. That required

- 1 a statistical analysis that the lawyers called on a
- 2 professional to do. They called it some sort of
- 3 regression analysis, generic, a geneological regression
- 4 or something like that, I don't know.
- 5 But anyway, this will all be in the report.
- 6 The consultant was able to go down into the county level
- 7 records, the voting district level records, and then
- 8 tease out the rates by race of spoiled ballots. That's
- 9 where he found, and this was what was reported in the
- 10 paper as being, I guess, most sensational, that the rate
- of spoiled ballots for blacks was ten times greater, ten
- 12 times greater than any other group. Now not just blacks
- and whites but for any other group, Hispanics, and you
- 14 know it was, it's fascinating to see the way he did
- 15 this. There was one line of argument that because a lot
- of the black voters may have been first-time voters or
- 17 because a lot of the black voters may have been
- 18 functionally illiterate, at any rate their educational
- 19 level made it more likely that they would be
- 20 unsuccessful in casting their ballot. The expert
- 21 compared Hispanics --

- 1 MS. GILMORE: Language differences.
- 2 MR. DARDEN: -- and blacks who were at the
- 3 same educational level and found that even then black
- 4 rates were almost four times greater than Hispanics.
- 5 Well, he said it wasn't his job to put value on why it
- 6 happened, he just wanted to show what had happened.
- 7 MS. GILMORE: Right.
- 8 MR. DARDEN: And so his result was to very
- 9 firmly and statistically show that there was racial
- 10 disparity in Florida at all levels and that that racial
- 11 disparity was extreme because it was so, it was much
- 12 higher than you find anywhere and have found anywhere
- 13 else. Now, why was that so? That's another question.
- MS. LEE: I have a completely different
- 15 question too. When we met almost two years ago in
- 16 Howard County several people came forward and you then
- 17 sent letters. There was a child that was injured in a
- day care and then some shoplifting and then the case
- 19 here that I finally remembered to bring her notebook
- 20 back and I gather we had no response from any of these.
- MR. DARDEN: No, there was at least -- Deb

- 1 sent a letter about the child and we did hear.
- 2 MS. LEMKE: We did?
- 3 MR. DARDEN: Yeah, the fellow at the day care
- 4 center?
- 5 MS. LEMKE: Never heard a response, they were
- 6 supposed to respond to Pat.
- 7 MR. DARDEN: I thought they had.
- 8 MS. LEE: No, you were going to send all the
- 9 letters on official U.S. stationery.
- MR. DARDEN: Yeah, yeah, I thought we had --
- 11 MS. LEE: I know you told me there was no
- 12 response from the mayor here.
- MR. DARDEN: Right.
- MS. LEE: But I have a real concern that
- 15 people come forward and tell us their problems and think
- 16 we can do something about it and I don't know what the
- 17 answer is.
- MR. DARDEN: Yeah, I know exactly what you
- 19 mean and see, that's a reflection of the desperate need
- 20 for real enforcement of civil rights laws. We don't
- 21 enforce the laws and that's all we can tell them. That

- 1 you know individuals that have, particularly if you have
- 2 someone and I'm sure you will hear today people who will
- 3 be coming to us almost as a last resort because they
- 4 haven't been able to get satisfaction one way or the
- 5 other. What we can do is to lend an ear and on a human
- 6 level that can be comforting, so to that extent we can
- 7 provide that. We don't have any authority, which means
- 8 that we really can't do anything about it.
- 9 We can refer them and we do refer them, we
- 10 refer them to the other -- what we can do is really what
- 11 we're doing here now, bringing into the community an
- 12 opportunity for them to speak in public and as a result
- of speaking in public it raises the level of attention
- 14 that their concerns have and indirectly then we hope
- 15 that that will bring some --
- MR. OKURA: We don't have any direct remedy
- for any of these problems that are brought to our
- 18 attention and that's what's so frustrating about the
- 19 Commission --
- MS. LEE: Sure, they hurt so much.
- 21 MR. OKURA: -- and this advisory commission.

- 1 MS. LEE: But the U.S. commission doesn't have
- 2 any authority either. I mean, what's going to happen to
- 3 this report that they're going to publish? Florida just
- 4 looks bad. I saw her letter that she had on the
- 5 Internet, that Mary Frances Barry wrote to Jeb Bush, and
- 6 my word, she's feisty.
- 7 MR. DARDEN: She's a lawyer.
- 8 MS. LEE: Yeah, but I mean she laid out you
- 9 did and you did and you did not.
- 10 MR. OKURA: It's so frustrating when we have
- 11 people who are really dedicated to doing something about
- 12 some of these issues and their hands are simply tied.
- 13 They make the report but we don't have any power to make
- 14 any remedies at all and we don't have enforcement powers
- 15 either.
- MS. LEE: They deliberately -- wasn't it
- 17 Reagan who set up the whole thing and deliberately made
- 18 it with no power?
- MR. OKURA: Well, that's --
- MS. GILMORE: Well, it would be worse if it
- 21 didn't exist.

Community Forum Page 37 1 MR. OKURA: -- at least we expose it. 2 MS. GILMORE: And there are remedies out 3 there. The media comes and that helps. 4 MS. LEE: 5 MS. GILMORE: We just have to take on the onus 6 of letting people know that there are ways for them and 7 maybe that should be one of our charges, that there are ways -- well, you know, things get remedied as much as 8 9 they get here in these wonderful states but there are 10 avenues that can be taken. 11 MR. OKURA: I guess the remedy is that we can 12 bring enough education material and get people excited about it and let people power eventually force congress 13 14 or force --15 That's an excellent idea, about MS. GILMORE: 16 education. 17 MR. OKURA: -- the people who have the power 18 to do something about it and if we can bring it to that

- MR. DARDEN: In the old days we used to say
- 21 that our job was to give bullets to the Indians.

level we've at least accomplished something.

19

- 1 MR. OKURA: Let them do the shooting but give
- 2 them the bullets.
- MS. LEE: Give bullets to the Native
- 4 Americans.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: You've got to be correct.
- 6 MR. OKURA: History keeps repeating itself
- 7 over and over and over.
- 8 MS. LEE: Thank you.
- 9 MR. DARDEN: Your welcome. So on the
- 10 Baltimore report I can't give you a time table but I'll
- 11 be reporting to you about it. I feel obliged to clarify
- 12 something probably I don't really need to but just
- 13 because it was to lay the groundwork for our future
- 14 activities. Ki-taek, our regional director, is at the
- 15 center with respect to what finally comes out in terms
- of reports of the advisory committee. So I've been
- 17 trying in various ways over the years to utilize staff
- 18 members as a way of lifting my burden. I just have
- 19 gotten to the point where I recognize that that probably
- 20 ain't going to happen, so to speak.
- We're going to be going into a report writing

- 1 after well, maybe even after this one but certainly
- 2 after Hagerstown where we pull together the three into a
- 3 report, into a trilogy, and that's going to be a fairly
- 4 long and difficult process that I wish I could get more
- 5 help from the committee members doing but very likely
- 6 will just be something that the staff will be assigned
- 7 to do.
- And I just wanted to let you know because I
- 9 led you down earlier getting Deb involved, I think, into
- 10 thinking that you could just write the report and then
- it would go straight through and it doesn't go that way.
- 12 There are filters and other kinds of requirements that
- don't let it just simply go straight through and so
- 14 that's the staff's job to shepherd it through the
- 15 process and to react in terms of revisions and legal
- 16 sufficiency.
- 17 I'm glad to know that we'll be having some
- 18 help from the research writers and I think the point
- 19 that you made is very well taken that as professional
- 20 writers perhaps the process of producing something that
- 21 will be usable will be less difficult than it is for me.

- 1 So I'll be looking forward to that. Whether they will
- 2 still be around when we're ready to do our report is
- 3 another question so I just wanted to make that point
- 4 clear so that everybody knows what to expect when we get
- 5 to the writing process, okay?
- 6 MS. JONES: Comment. You mentioned filtering
- 7 and that the director has the final say on what actually
- 8 will be contained in the report, is that what you said?
- 9 MR. DARDEN: I think that's a fair statement.
- 10 I think I know where you're headed and yes, the director
- 11 does have final say on what is actually going to be
- 12 presented to the commissioners. Now, that's not to say
- 13 that the advisory committee's thrust, you know, is not
- 14 there or isn't expected to be there, it is, but when you
- 15 get down to polishing the report, even looking at it
- 16 critically for its structure and the arguments that it
- 17 makes we can't take that away from -- that's where the
- 18 final decision is made.
- MS. JONES: Well, and that's fine. It's just
- 20 that when people come to share their concerns they would
- 21 really like to be able to find those concerns evident in

- 1 the final product and they would like those concerns to
- 2 be in there sufficiently to justify their time to come
- 3 and present, so all I'm saying is that I wouldn't want
- 4 to see a product come of this and that some of us around
- 5 this table might say well, it missed the point. Now the
- 6 editing, the polishing, all of that, that's fine, but
- 7 the essence of what people come to say needs to come
- 8 through very loudly and clearly or else there's not --
- 9 what's the point?
- MR. OKURA: Just going through the motions,
- 11 you know.
- MR. DARDEN: Well, I think I can, certainly
- 13 for myself I can say that yeah, what is the point if we
- 14 don't do that.
- MS. JONES: I don't know, yes.
- MR. DARDEN: I think you and I and everyone
- 17 else who is involved with this is firmly committed to,
- 18 even to some extent amplifying where we think it's
- 19 appropriate so that we can contribute from our
- 20 perspective to understanding what problems are. Many
- 21 times people who present to us don't have the big

- 1 picture, we do, we can amplify it. All I can say is
- 2 that I think that that may be the kind of thing that
- 3 falls into this level of overall quality of the
- 4 reporting, of the report itself.
- A lot of that, however, really depends on what
- 6 goes in at the beginning. Today when we sit here and
- 7 listen to these people, think about the quality of the
- 8 report as you develop your questions. It will be -- the
- 9 nature of your questions, the way you follow up, the way
- 10 you probe, the kind of answers that you elicit from your
- 11 questions that will give us the meat to come out with a
- 12 strong report.
- So in that regard it's very much the members'
- 14 responsibility and you have control over the degree to
- 15 which your report is going to be hard hitting by the way
- 16 you produce the record and that's going to be your work
- 17 today and in Hagerstown and every other time we do this.
- 18 After your work is done then our work starts, okay, but
- 19 it really does rest with you. Yes.
- MS. LEE: I wanted to ask you about the press
- 21 releases.

- 1 MR. DARDEN: Yes.
- MS. LEE: Are they in a required form the way
- 3 they're written? I was going to suggest to you that you
- 4 might -- they read like a government document and it
- 5 would be, maybe that would be a good starting test for
- 6 the people to rewrite the press release in a more -- I
- 7 mean they must re-do it in order to do it in the paper
- 8 but outside of the headline it's very difficult reading.
- 9 MR. DARDEN: Yeah, yeah. No, there's no
- 10 required format. What we have is a model that we've
- 11 developed. I'll take back your comments.
- MS. LEE: Well, it has so much information in
- 13 it that may not be necessary about having the meeting is
- 14 the point of the whole thing and it doesn't need to have
- 15 the whole U.S. Commission's names and everything. I'm
- 16 being picky today, I'm sorry.
- MR. DARDEN: Well, on that point I don't have
- 18 much sway. Sometimes we sit down -- I'm the one who
- 19 actually -- that's another point I want to make, I type
- 20 and I'm not a very good typist, just about everything
- 21 that you see.

- 1 MS. LEE: That's ridiculous.
- 2 MR. DARDEN: So when you find a typographical
- 3 error, if you find a name like Virginia when it should
- 4 be Maryland, you have to forgive me.
- 5 MS. GILMORE: We all understand, we've all
- 6 done it.
- 7 MR. DARDEN: Just about everything I do has
- 8 something in it that's wrong so and I'm trying to get
- 9 better at it but my eyes glaze over. I can take the
- 10 time to proofread and not pick it up.
- MS. GILMORE: You're too close.
- MS. LEE: You can't proofread your own stuff.
- 13 MR. DARDEN: So but you know in that process
- 14 and Ki-taek will review even press releases and what I
- 15 can do, Anne, is to take a shot at a different more open
- 16 draft and see how it flies and in the process of looking
- 17 at it I'll say oh, and by the way, one of my members
- 18 thought perhaps we ought to try to loosen up a little
- 19 bit.
- MS. LEE: Of course you're going to get a lot
- of people here today anyhow so maybe the criticism is

- 1 not constructive.
- 2 MR. OKURA: The press release is only one page
- 3 anyway, both sides. I thought it was pretty good.
- 4 MR. ODOMS: Excellent.
- 5 MR. OKURA: And again, whether it's important
- 6 or not the members of the Commission have to be -- the
- 7 U.S. Commission has to give it some validity otherwise,
- 8 you know, people would say who put out this release.
- 9 MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman, may we have a
- 10 five-minute break, please?
- MR. DARDEN: Actually we should be taking a --
- MR. OKURA: A break somewhere?
- MR. DARDEN: Yes, let's take five minutes.
- 14 (Brief recess.)
- MR. DARDEN: Okay, ladies and gentlemen, the
- 16 agenda, the tentative agenda. The first thing to notice
- 17 every panel has a moderator and we have --
- MS. PARDO: Excuse me, I was just told that
- 19 the food is ready in the other room.
- MR. DARDEN: Okay, we're going to break at
- 21 quarter of.

Page 46 MR. ODOMS: Or earlier. 1 MR. DARDEN: You have to blame me, I made some 2 selections and Mariana you see that --3 Ready and able. 4 MS. PARDO: 5 MR. DARDEN: -- you missed the last meeting so we're going to put you to work. 6 MS. PARDO: I'll be there. 7 8 MR. DARDEN: And Doug, no meeting would be 9 complete without you, and the same for you. 10 MS. JONES: I missed the last one so I 11 understand. 12 MR. DARDEN: You've got to do the work there. 13 MS. PARDO: I'm not missing another one. 14 MR. DARDEN: Now the moderator's task is not 15 only to introduce the panel and to check on the time, 16 you know, keep the time frame in mind, I think we have adequate time. What you might want to do is to -- I'll 17 18 let you play it by ear. One way that works is to have 19 each of the panelists make an opening statement and then

go from there to questions from the committee so that

they'll have a chance to develop their points during the

20

21

- 1 question and answer period.
- 2 If, however, during opening statements some
- 3 members are interested in asking a question I'll just
- 4 leave it up to the moderators to sort of take a feel for
- 5 what you think is best and how to handle that. The only
- 6 other thing that we need you to do is to check with the
- 7 court reporter from time to time to see if the court
- 8 reporter needs a break or if there's any other
- 9 identification that needs to be done, that sort of
- 10 thing, and Marian will let you know about that.
- If you're asked questions like -- oh, I'm
- 12 sorry, there is one other thing. We are, we do not
- 13 permit in a public meeting what we call defame and
- degrade and that is if a person is making an accusation
- 15 that would tend to defame that person's character or if
- 16 they are accusing someone of a criminal act, or if they
- 17 say something that would be an obvious intrusion on the
- 18 privacy of another person, the moderator should be
- 19 sensitive to that kind of thing and ask that the speaker
- 20 either refrain or if it's very important that we get
- 21 that kind of sensitive information we can ask the staff

- 1 to rule on whether the session can be closed in order to
- 2 get the information.
- 3 All right, so let me make this real quick.
- 4 Any questions from the moderators on what you're
- 5 supposed to do?
- REV. SANDS: Have they already been told what
- 7 particular amount of time they have?
- 8 MR. DARDEN: Several of them have been given
- 9 three to five minutes.
- 10 REV. SANDS: Have they been instructed to
- 11 bring written comments as well.
- MR. DARDEN: They have not been asked to
- 13 bring -- we've urged them if they have material to bring
- 14 it but they're not required to read from a written
- 15 statement.
- 16 REV. SANDS: Do they understand that they to
- 17 may be presented together with other panelists or do
- 18 they expect to make individual presentations?
- 19 MR. DARDEN: They all expect to be with other
- 20 people and they have received copies of the agenda.
- 21 REV. SANDS: Thank you.

- 1 MR. DARDEN: Now, the only other portion is at
- 2 the beginning the chairperson, Pat Okura, and Jenkins
- 3 Odoms have been slated to make opening statements and I
- 4 haven't prepared for either one of them something to
- 5 read and I'll leave it in their capable hands.
- Pat, the only technical announcement that I'd
- 7 like you to include in your opening statement has to do
- 8 with the comment I just made about defame and degrade --
- 9 MR. OKURA: All right.
- 10 MR. DARDEN: -- and asking people to avoid
- 11 that kind of a statement. In addition to that we'll
- 12 have material on the side that they can take with them
- and we're asking everybody who is here to either sign a
- 14 registration form or a panelist request form and I'll
- 15 handle that. Jenkins?
- MR. ODOMS: Yes.
- MR. DARDEN: In your statement you know a lot
- of these people personally so I'll leave that up to you
- 19 to say whatever you like.
- MR. ODOMS: It will be very short and brief.
- MR. DARDEN: Okay, and then after the break at

- 1 5:15 we'll have the opening session. You see we have
- 2 two people already scheduled. We will accept during the
- 3 day any other requests but will try to still stay within
- 4 the one-hour limit so that we'll end by 7 o'clock or
- 5 before.
- 6 REV. Sands: Thank you.
- 7 MR. DARDEN: Okay.
- MR. OKURA: Do I chair this open session?
- 9 MR. DARDEN: Yes, I'm sorry, I should put that
- 10 in there.
- MS. LEE: Do we have to have another meeting
- of our group to plan the Hagerstown thing before we
- 13 leave?
- MR. DARDEN: We were supposed to cover that in
- 15 this session prior to but we haven't touched it, maybe
- 16 we can continue to talk as we eat.
- 17 REV. Sands: Is this an extension of the
- interest in Carroll County that we decided to go to
- 19 Hagerstown and include all of western Maryland? At one
- 20 time we were showing increased interest in Carroll
- 21 County itself.

Community Forum

-	Page 51		
1	MR. ODOMS: Yes, that's what I thought was		
2	Carroll County.		
3	MR. DARDEN: No, what he's talking about, I		
4	know what he's talking about. May I make a suggestion,		
5	Mr. Chair, can we now adjourn to the lunch and continue		
6	talking over lunch?		
7	MR. OKURA: Yes.		
8	(A luncheon recess was taken.)		
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1	\triangle	SESSION
	OPEN	OPOOTON

- 2 MR. OKURA: I would like to call the meeting
- 3 of the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S.
- 4 Commission on Civil Rights to this community forum this
- 5 afternoon. My name is K. Patrick Okura, I'm from
- 6 Bethesda, Maryland and I'm the chairman of the Maryland
- 7 advisory committee.
- 8 I'd just like to take a minute to introduce
- 9 the other members of our Maryland committee. Reverend
- 10 Doug Sands, Sr., who is vice chairman who comes to us
- 11 from Mount Airy, Maryland, Dr. Debra Lemke, Secretary,
- 12 is from Westminster, Maryland, Miss Lea Gilmore is from
- 13 Baltimore City, Miss Mary Louise Jones is from
- 14 Cumberland, Mr. Jenkin Odoms, Jr. is from Maryland City,
- 15 Miss Mariana Pardo is from Fort Washington, and the
- other three members are ill and unable to be with us but
- we do have eight of the eleven members of our committee
- 18 here today.
- I want to extend a warm welcome to all of
- 20 those that are here and allow you the opportunity to
- 21 speak about community problems within your own

- 1 particular community in the area of civil rights and
- 2 discrimination. This forum is to provide an opportunity
- 3 on the various issues that exist in various counties
- 4 throughout this area and the only caution that I would
- 5 like to make is for any of the speakers, the panelists,
- 6 and any questions from the audience that we avoid any
- 7 statements that are accusing people of different
- 8 personal accusations and we need to avoid statements
- 9 that will accuse any single person of any action that we
- 10 may be liable for or be sued for later on so that's the
- 11 only warning that I have.
- Now, at this time I'd like to ask Jenkins
- Odoms, Jr., who is the subcommittee chairperson for this
- 14 particular meeting for a few words.
- MR. ODOMS: First, I'd like to welcome you and
- 16 thank you for coming this afternoon to the council here
- for the purpose of the forum to provide an opportunity
- 18 for the advocates and community leaders to discuss civil
- 19 rights concerns and also remedies of these actions. And
- 20 here I'd like to thank each and every one for coming.
- 21 Again, I'd like to give a special thanks to Miss Mary

- 1 Ashanti who is the host county for the fine lunch you
- 2 have given us here and your service here that you
- 3 continue to give an outstanding job.
- 4 There is a couple of changes here. In place
- 5 of Douglas B. Jones there will be Mr. John Anderson who
- 6 is the president of Kent County and will be on the first
- 7 panel. And also in place of Mr. George Gold of Queen
- 8 Anne County there will be the president, James Holly,
- 9 these are administrative changes. And again we'd like
- 10 to thank you for coming and for the evening here and the
- 11 three panelists here that we will be able to discuss the
- 12 civil rights issues and to find some kind of remedy for
- their recommendation and again thank you for coming and
- 14 thank you Mr. Chairman.
- MR. OKURA: Also I want to introduce our staff
- 16 person who does all of the work for us, Mr. Ed Darden,
- 17 the staff person from the U.S. Commission on Civil
- 18 Rights.
- MR. DARDEN: There are a couple of pieces of
- 20 paper floating around the room and I'd like to add a few
- 21 more. I'm going to be circulating a sign-in sheet for

- 1 this afternoon's open session. Any person who would
- 2 like to participate and who is not a scheduled speaker
- 3 if you would sign in I'd appreciate that, we'll leave
- 4 the list at the check-in table.
- In addition to that I have a sheet for sign in
- 6 for the press. We'd like to keep track of who is
- 7 covering and if you would give us the reporter's name
- 8 that's here. And then finally, as the speakers come to
- 9 the table, I'll leave this at the table for each one of
- 10 you to sign in and that way as the changes are made
- 11 we'll be certain that the record, even though the agenda
- 12 may have the wrong name we will substitute those names
- 13 so that our record will be correct.
- In addition to that there are just a couple of
- other things I'd like to mention. Here at the side of
- 16 the room we have a number of handouts. These are
- 17 examples of past advisory committee reports. Also on
- 18 the table we have something called the registration
- 19 form. This is another way for participants to let us
- 20 know who is here and if you would turn those in to me
- 21 before you leave with your name and address and if you

- 1 would like to order copies of any of the reports there's
- 2 a check box list on that sheet, simply check those boxes
- 3 and your report will be sent to you by mail.
- 4 I'd like to also particularly draw your
- 5 attention to the yellow report, that's the hot off the
- 6 press most recent Delaware advisory committee directory,
- 7 citizen's guide to civil rights and supporting services.
- It's a very unique document because it brings
- 9 together both civil rights as well as not traditionally
- 10 civil rights organizations in a way that we hope will be
- 11 very useful to the public. That only was released this
- 12 past week. So that's the information I have for you.
- Now, there are a couple of other
- 14 announcements. We have in the audience two Maryland
- 15 state representatives so I'd like to let you know who
- 16 they are so you'll know that they're here and I've asked
- 17 them both if there should be questions, either during
- 18 the panelist's presentation or from the audience that
- 19 might have some particular connection with their
- 20 responsibility if they would be available to help answer
- 21 questions and they said they would be.

- 1 So I'd like to just introduce first Linda
- 2 Hopkins Henry who is with the Maryland Commission on
- 3 Human Relations in the back of the room, equal
- 4 opportunity officer, and also Laura E. Diaz, who is the
- 5 director's assistant for the Governor's Commission on
- 6 Hispanic Affairs. So I'll turn it back over to you.
- 7 MR. OKURA: I have an apology to make. We
- 8 left out one member of our committee, Anne Lee and so I
- 9 apologize for the --
- MS. LEE: No problem.
- MR. OKURA: Now, I'd like to introduce our
- 12 first panel moderator. Panel one is to cover Cecil,
- 13 Kent and Queen Anne's County civil rights issues and I
- 14 want to introduce the member of our board who will be
- 15 the moderator for this panel, Mariana Pardo, to chair
- 16 this first or moderate this first panel.
- MS. PARDO: Good afternoon. We're ready to
- 18 begin, are we?
- MR. OKURA: Yes.
- MR. ODOMS: May I say something?
- MS. PARDO: Sure.

- 1 MR. ODOMS: I beg your pardon. We do have
- 2 refreshments and they're in the back back here. We have
- 3 enough water so you may go straight back and help
- 4 yourself, thank you. Thank you, Mariana.
- 5 MS. PARDO: Sure, no problem. Mr. John
- 6 Anderson, would you please come up front sir, and
- 7 Mr. James Holly. Yeah, that's you, sir, all right.
- I understand that the members that are going
- 9 to be presenting are aware of more or less what you're
- 10 going to be doing but I will clarify you have anywhere
- 11 from three to five minutes, if you like, to make a
- 12 statement and then it will be open for questions and
- answers from the members of the advisory committee here.
- Mr. Holly, if you would like to -- maybe,
- 15 Mr. Anderson actually is first, I'm sorry, Mr. Holly.
- 16 Mr. Anderson, you're the person from the Kent County
- 17 branch?
- MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Kent County is located on
- 19 the northern part of the Eastern Shore, situated between
- 20 Queen Anne and Cecil County, nice, quiet agricultural
- 21 area, a lot of retirement type of county. It's also

- 1 where Washington College is located. You're probably
- 2 familiar with Washington College which, I think, is the
- 3 tenth oldest college in America and the only one that
- 4 George Washington gave permission to use his name. It's
- 5 a liberal arts college, very, very good school.
- 6 Kent County is a nice, quiet little place, a
- 7 nice place to live and it has all of the outward
- 8 trappings of a very nice place but the underlying part
- 9 of that is that Kent County is still fraught with racism
- 10 in this 20th century.
- One of the things that has maybe perpetrated
- 12 this is that they've not allowed big industry to come to
- 13 the county. The county has something like a 3 percent
- 14 unemployment rate which is good except that the poverty
- 15 rate is probably about 10 or 20 percent which is not
- 16 good.
- We have a situation with a lot of minorities
- 18 who are being relegated to working in menial jobs at or
- 19 sometimes below the standard cost of living wage which
- 20 is not good which in turn leads parents working one job
- or two jobs with children at poverty and they are sort

- of caught in a Catch-22, not able to move out of that
- 2 rut.
- I have lived in Kent County for about 40
- 4 years, I came there from Talbot County but in those 40
- 5 years I've found it necessary to work out of the county,
- 6 out of the state as do the majority of the people in
- 7 that county to make a living wage even though I'm
- 8 traveling probably 40 miles a day which I've gotten
- 9 accustomed to it's not one of those things that one
- 10 would like for their children or grandchildren to have
- 11 to look forward to doing this when Kent County gives all
- 12 the trappings of being a nice, lovely place to live and
- it is except that it's not adequate employment there for
- 14 its residents. The other thing is that it's lacking as
- 15 far as a civil rights agenda is concerned. We're still
- 16 living in the probably 16th century which is not good.
- MS. PARDO: Go ahead, excuse me.
- 18 MR. DARDEN: Yes.
- MS. PARDO: Maybe once -- Mr. Anderson, you're
- 20 completed, sir, with your statement, should we open now
- 21 questions for Mr. Anderson before we proceed to

- 1 Mr. Holly?
- MR. DARDEN: Mr. Anderson, you've completed
- 3 with your statement?
- 4 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: Mr. Holly, you have a prepared
- 6 statement?
- 7 MR. HOLLY: Oh yes, it's not written down but
- 8 I have a lot.
- 9 MR. DARDEN: I'd recommend that we hear from
- 10 both and then ask questions of both.
- MS. PARDO: Sure, go ahead, Mr. Holly.
- MR. HOLLY: Good morning. Thank you for the
- opportunity to come before this panel, I appreciate it.
- 14 It's a great opportunity and I consider it a privilege
- 15 in that you have taken your time to come down and meet
- 16 with us and listen to us and see what can be done.
- My name is James W. Holly. I'm from Queen
- 18 Anne's County, Maryland. I'm a retired educator
- 19 originally from North Carolina. I'm currently
- 20 president, this is my second time around as president of
- 21 the Queen Anne's branch of the NAACP. I was just

- 1 re-installed back in January. I had previously served a
- 2 four-year term, two terms, as a matter of fact.
- I'm going to get right to the issues here.
- 4 What I've done is looked at the list of things you have
- 5 here. You have a letter that came of seven things you
- 6 list here, equal housing, minority business enterprise,
- 7 equal employment opportunities, Hispanic community
- 8 issues, student achievement among minorities, diversity
- 9 of public schools, public police community relations and
- 10 racial profiling, health care programs and accommodating
- 11 disabled persons.
- Number one, low income housing. That's a
- 13 major issue in our county. Lots of construction is
- 14 going on in Queen Anne's County all over the county. If
- 15 you are familiar at all with Queen Anne's County you
- 16 know that it's the county that you enter when you come
- 17 across the Bay Bridge and that part then is called
- 18 Stevensville and Kent Island and it's loaded, it's
- 19 getting -- I think my grandmother would say loadinger
- 20 [sic.] every day, it's getting more densely populated
- 21 every day and it's moving east.

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- 1 The population, just my area where I live and
- 2 when I moved over there the road I lived on, for
- 3 example, there were about seven houses and I could tell
- 4 you where I lived by pointing out that my house was the
- 5 fifth house on the left-hand side and there were no
- 6 houses on the right-hand side so I was easy to find.
- 7 Now I have to take time and count and tell you
- 8 where my house is numerically and not only that but a
- 9 car would come along about once every half an hour, now
- 10 it's just continuous traffic because there are three
- 11 housing developments going in down the road past me that
- 12 used to be farms and it's turning into housing
- 13 developments. Also coming out of town there's another
- 14 housing development and this is true all over the
- 15 county.
- Now, you'll say that's great, that's growth.
- 17 The problem with that is that these houses being
- 18 constructed and they tell you right on the sign starting
- 19 price is \$170,000. Now, can you afford a \$170,000 house
- 20 on minimum wage? Even with five people in the
- 21 houseworking I would say no, probably not. So that's

- 1 our problem, then, with the housing.
- There is no low income housing being developed
- 3 and there is nothing that the planning and zoning
- 4 commissions, any of the county commissions, and our
- 5 county commissioners are elected, there is nothing that
- 6 they are doing to ensure that there is construction for
- 7 minorities or for low income. There are no stipulations
- 8 that the builders have to build a certain size or so
- 9 many houses for low income or any of those things that
- 10 are prevalent in some other counties, okay, so that's
- 11 our major problem there.
- 12 Minority business enterprises, we do have some
- 13 minority businessmen, we have especially watermen, we
- 14 have gentlemen that have their own head boats, fishing
- boats, to do their oystering and crabbing. That's long
- been a standing employment area for people of Queen
- 17 Anne's County, the crabbing and the oystering. You want
- 18 a good crab cake come to Queen Anne's County, good fresh
- 19 crab meat, that is, providing how the bay is going or
- 20 flowing, what they're getting. And we have some
- 21 carpenters and one or two brick layers, we have barbers,

- 1 that type of people but they're getting fewer and fewer.
- 2 The reason is because we move to the
- 3 employment then, okay. For the young people coming out
- 4 of high school there is little or no employment except
- 5 in the fast food places that have come up, a few in the
- 6 super markets, and K-Mart hires a few even though they
- 7 have made a statement that K-Mart is not a black store,
- 8 that's on record, there's a suit going on about that, a
- 9 customer having been told that, okay. And nursing homes
- 10 hires a number of African Americans and minorities to
- 11 work there so what happens is there's an exit of our
- 12 young minorities from the county when they finish high
- 13 school if they go to college they go away. And if they
- don't they move away because there's better housing,
- 15 there's better jobs in Delaware, and take them across
- 16 the bridge in Anne Arundel County so that's leading to
- 17 that problem so the minority businesses are dropping
- 18 because the people are not staying to be involved with
- 19 them.
- As far as number four, Hispanic community
- 21 issues well, first of all, we have very few Hispanics in

- 1 the county. There are a few that work, come in the
- 2 summer and work at the cannery, there's a corn cannery
- 3 there and they come and work there but I think some of
- 4 them are even bused in and there is a hot dog plant,
- 5 believe it or not, there that makes hot dogs so some of
- 6 the Armor Hot Dogs and Butter Ball hot dogs might even
- 7 come from over there in Queen Anne's County. And
- 8 believe it or not they don't come from the midwest
- 9 someplace so some are working there, okay, and they live
- 10 different areas, they're spread out.
- We've never had any complaints and I would, I
- 12 think I tend to think that when I say complaints, I'm
- 13 talking about complaints from them about any
- 14 discrimination and I tend to think that that might be
- because some of them may be in the country illegally and
- 16 the reason I say that is because every so often over in
- 17 the adjoining county at the chicken factory the
- immigration authorities pull the raids and carry them,
- 19 pick them up by the busload and take them out so that
- leads me to believe that so therefore they're very
- 21 quiet, which makes sense. You're not going to make any

- 1 noise if you're not supposed to be there in the first
- 2 place.
- 3 The student achievement and minority diversity
- 4 in public schools, the problem we have there is that
- 5 this is going on all over the state, there are more
- 6 minorities being placed in special ed, okay. The
- 7 minority population is low, only about maybe 21, 22
- 8 percent, maybe even less right now, through the
- 9 population, that is, but about 70 percent of them or 60
- 10 percent of them are the ones put into special ed class.
- Now there's another thing we can get into
- 12 about why that happens, you know, the list goes on and
- on as to why that happens, everything from family to
- 14 social grading and background and exposure to plain
- 15 racism by the teachers etc., etc., okay.
- Police profiling, Route 50 comes directly
- 17 through Queen Anne's County. You come into Queen Anne's
- 18 County from the west going east you have got to use 50.
- 19 50 and 301 runs together until they split after you get
- 20 up there about Queenstown and many of you know where the
- 21 Queenstown outlets are and that's where it splits.

So if you're going to the beach or the beaches 1 you are on Route 50, Rehobeth or Ocean City. 2 going north to New Jersey or New York that's, 301 is a 3 traffic route. If you get out on 301 in the evening, 4 Monday evening, Monday night, you're going to wonder, 5 you'll say I didn't know there was so many tractor 6 trailers, they will almost run you off the road but the 7 8 problem is that, of course, that there is a lot of traffic so therefore there's a lot of stops being made. 9 10 As a matter of fact, this Tuesday night at our regular monthly meeting I have invited the county, the 11 12 sheriff and the commander of the barracks, the state 13 police barracks, into our meeting to discuss this very 14 issue because under the latest ruling by the supreme 15 court you may well know that they gave police sort of a 16 carte blanche permission to stop on their whim and 17 search and even take the shoes off and get the dogs and 18 all this type of thing just because they suspect or they 19 think a simple seat belt violation can become a major 20 incident instead of just being given a ticket and being 21 told to buckle your seat belt and to go on about your

- 1 business so we have that problem.
- 2 And of course there are other things that go
- 3 along with that because the traffic coming through the
- 4 county, the county depends on that traffic a lot for
- 5 stopping and shopping, okay, everything from the gas
- 6 stations to the outlets.
- 7 And then the last one, health care programs
- 8 and the health care program, we have a good health
- 9 department, more doctors with the population increasing,
- 10 more construction then there are more doctors and
- 11 doctors' offices being constructed in the county. There
- 12 are senior citizen centers spread out throughout the
- 13 county, as a matter of fact, I even used one to have an
- 14 NAACP meeting in one night a couple of months ago,
- 15 starting to spread out all over the county.
- MS. PARDO: Excuse me, sir. I know, I
- 17 apologize to my committee members.
- 18 MR. HOLLY: I apologize.
- MS. PARDO: No, that's okay. What you were
- 20 saying, sir, was very important you covered very
- 21 extensively and I'm sure there will be some questions

- 1 from our members and many will touch upon some of the
- 2 things that you were going to cover. Thank you, sir.
- 3 Thank you, Mr. Anderson, but please stay there, I will
- 4 open it for questions and answers. We have a good ten
- 5 minutes that we can continue on.
- 6 Yes, Miss Lee.
- 7 MS. LEE: I wanted to ask Mr. Anderson, you
- 8 spoke a couple of times about earning a living wage and
- 9 I wondered what you considered to be a living wage for,
- 10 say, a family of four? Is there a figure? I plead
- 11 ignorance, I don't know.
- MR. ANDERSON: For me about a hundred thousand
- dollars.
- MS. LEE: Lots of luck.
- MR. ANDERSON: No, living wage for a family of
- 16 four would be probably around 15- to \$18,000.
- 17 MS. LEE: Thank you. That's sort of the
- 18 poverty level, isn't it?
- 19 MR. ANDERSON: That's what it is.
- 20 MR. ODOMS: That's below the poverty --
- MS. LEE: That's what I thought.

Page 71 Can I ask a followup question 1 MS. LEMKE: about the cost of housing? Coming from a county that 2 seems to have developed about as fast as Kent County the 3 cost of housing has really skyrocketed and the county 4 I'm coming from, Carroll County, you cannot buy anything 5 for less than \$80,000 and the average cost of housing is 6 130- for like a two bedroom. Could you give me some 7 idea of what's happening in housing in Kent County? 8 In Kent County the housing has 9 MR. ANDERSON: 10 skyrocketed as well. We're talking about 150,000 and up and you'll be lucky to find something at 150,000. 11 MS. LEMKE: And these are small, relatively 12 13 small family homes, correct? 14 MR. ANDERSON: Yes. 15 MS. PARDO: You had a question here? 16 MS. GILMORE: Thank you, Mr. Anderson and

17 Mr. Holly, that was a great presentation. As far as

18 what you're doing day to day and in complaints you get

19 from your constituency what seems to be the most

20 pressing issue? That is, Mr. Anderson, what is the

issue or issues that you hear more and more involving 21

- 1 discrimination?
- 2 MR. ANDERSON: Law enforcement and right now
- 3 we're dealing with housing development and what has
- 4 happened there is that what I'll call, what used to be a
- 5 very nice housing project has now deteriorated to a
- 6 where folks who thought they would live there forever
- 7 are trying to move out.
- 8 MS. GILMORE: It's public housing?
- 9 MR. ANDERSON: Subsidized housing, because the
- 10 drug traffic has sort of moved into that area. It's not
- 11 as prevalent as in the larger cities but for our small
- 12 county it's serious. One of the things that has
- 13 happened is that the law enforcement staff is very
- 14 limited, they're small. Kent County is a small county
- 15 but it's stretched out over a large area and on
- 16 weekends, in fact, at night the sheriff department only
- 17 has two deputies to patrol the whole county.
- In the city of Chestertown which is the
- 19 largest town in Kent County the police chief has two
- 20 officers on at night so as a result then the folks in
- 21 Chestertown when the police department decided to round

- 1 up the guys who are doing the drugs and having the
- 2 parties they take off from town and moved out to this
- 3 area, the developments out in the county where they know
- 4 the sheriff's department can't get to them because of
- 5 their response time. And so by the time they get there
- 6 they're gone, they have disappeared. And we're
- 7 currently working on that. As a matter of fact, we had
- 8 a meeting with Congressman Gilchrist, the county
- 9 commissioners, the sheriff's department, the police
- 10 chief, state's attorney, the landlord who is the manager
- of this development and several other people this Monday
- 12 past at the congressman's office and we're hoping from
- 13 that we'll be able to provide some type of security and
- 14 safety for the folks in that area.
- And we've looked at several things that need
- 16 to be done there, one is we're thinking about making
- 17 that a gated type of community where folks would have to
- 18 sign in if they're going to be coming in there to visit
- 19 people. We do not want to deter legitimate business or
- visiting with relatives but we want to keep that drug
- 21 population out of that area because that has caused

- 1 great concern for us, especially's those of us who now
- 2 have grandchildren who live in some of these areas
- 3 because we don't want them in that environment.
- 4 MR. DARDEN: I just wanted to make a comment,
- 5 I know we have five minutes left in this period and I
- 6 was going to suggest if you and the rest of the members
- 7 didn't mind shaving off some of the 15 minutes that we
- 8 have scheduled for the break in between we could use
- 9 that too.
- MS. PARDO: That would be fine.
- 11 MR. DARDEN: All right.
- MS. PARDO: I know the second part of your
- 13 question, Miss Gilmore, actually you wanted Mr. Holly to
- 14 be able to --
- MS. GILMORE: Sure.
- MR. HOLLY: I guess in my county I guess the
- 17 most pressing issue and the ones that I get the most
- 18 calls about are about the police profiling type cases,
- 19 especially mothers calling concerned about their sons,
- 20 teenaged sons being young, being young, caught driving
- 21 while black, okay, that type of thing. The search,

- 1 bring the dogs in to sniff the car, taking off shoes,
- 2 and all of that type of thing, that's why we're having
- 3 this meeting coming up Tuesday night.
- 4 Of course Queen Anne's County being as I said
- 5 about 50 coming straight into it it has gotten to be, we
- 6 have a hot-spot group at work and I found out just
- 7 recently that it has gotten to be one of the highest
- 8 rate of drug infiltration passing through Queen Anne's
- 9 County. Even the newest craze is ecstasy or something
- 10 like that, that is, there's the largest amount of that
- 11 being passed through and sold in Queen Anne's County
- 12 than any county in the state. You might say this little
- 13 Eastern Shore county, it sounds hard to believe but if
- 14 you recall just a few weeks ago there was a couple that
- 15 was caught, it was in the newspaper, manufacturing and
- 16 bringing in and distributing it from Annapolis and into
- 17 Queen Anne's County. So that is a big issue.
- Now along with that issue there's a community
- 19 called Graysonville, right along the Route 50 corridor.
- 20 Graysonville is where, best described where Graysonville
- 21 sits, it's the area you get to after you cross the Kent

- 1 Narrow's Bridge coming this way. And there's a minority
- 2 population in that community, it's low minority
- 3 population there, a dense pocket of minorities, and that
- 4 area gets the most patrolling by the deputy sheriffs and
- 5 the state troopers and the special agents, drug agents,
- 6 in that area while the other areas that are even more
- 7 densely populated down in Kent Island and Route 8 and
- 8 all of that where there are more white residents, very
- 9 dense, where there are more drugs it gets the least
- 10 patrolling, the least.
- And then it goes on to the treatment of the
- 12 perpetrators, one kid, an 18-year-old kid is caught,
- 13 he's handcuffed, taken to jail, charged, you know, big
- 14 bond and so forth. The other kid same amount is caught,
- 15 he's taken, he may be charged but he's taken home and
- 16 put in the custody of his parents. This type of thing
- goes on, so I get the most calls on that and a little
- 18 bit about the housing situation not being able to find
- 19 any.
- MS. PARDO: We can use five more minutes, do
- 21 you think?

- 1 MR. DARDEN: Yeah, we can use -- yeah. I
- 2 wanted to emphasize that if you look at our agenda we
- 3 haven't loaded up with official representatives or
- 4 police department representatives or government
- 5 officials at the agency level. The purpose is to really
- 6 talk at the grass roots level with the community, that's
- 7 the committee's principle purpose, and if we need to
- 8 take more time to do that we will but I had a question
- 9 along those lines for both of you.
- 10 I'm assuming that at some point along the way
- 11 your political, your community's political leaders,
- 12 elected officials, must have made some kind of
- 13 statements, promises, about how they plan to address
- some of these problems in your communities.
- What I'd like to know from you is your
- 16 estimation -- well, first of all, if they have made
- 17 those promises, what those promises were, your
- 18 estimation of how well they have fulfilled the promises
- 19 made to your communities. And then I quess finally,
- just to cap it off, if there were no promises made what
- 21 would you like to hear as a promise to your community?

- 1 MR. HOLLY: First of all, as far as Queen
- 2 Anne's is concerned we have three elected county
- 3 commissioners. There's discussion now about
- 4 redistricting, maybe going to five, because there's
- 5 never been a minority county commissioner. It may be
- 6 even difficult to get one then because of the
- 7 disbursement of minorities throughout the county so you
- 8 may not be able to get a group, a block, to move on from
- 9 there.
- They have not -- you've got to understand,
- 11 they operate on the good old boy system, under the good
- 12 old boy system. I was reading an article, a long
- 13 article in the paper I think last week or the week
- 14 before about some of the housing developments that are
- 15 going on and if you look at them when you read you find
- 16 the same names reappearing for this development. It's
- 17 called Pine [phonetic] Tree Development, Rock
- 18 Development, Green Creek Development. You find the same
- 19 names involved in all of them pretty much, maybe a new
- 20 name is added to one here or there. So commissioners,
- 21 they go to the zoning board, they have somebody whose

- 1 been in town all their lives in the good old boy network
- 2 and the family and they get permission to change the
- 3 codes. Instead of having an acre building lot all of a
- 4 sudden you can put three houses on one acre so you don't
- 5 have enough room between the houses to curse a cat
- 6 without getting a hair in your nose from the other guy's
- 7 house or you can't park your car between the house, you
- 8 got to park your car in front. So you're going back to
- 9 two story houses because you don't have enough room to
- 10 build a ranch with four bedrooms unless you go straight
- 11 back.
- But this is what's happening so there's been
- 13 no talk or discussion or very little about any type of
- 14 low income. Now, you said, the lady, you said about
- 15 \$80,000 houses in your county, honey, we haven't had a
- 16 \$80,000 house built in Queen Anne's County in 20 years.
- 17 MS. LEMKE: These are the ones in Carroll
- 18 County that date from the 1700s.
- MR. HOLLY: Oh, well, see in Queen Anne's
- 20 County you've got one that dates from there, the price
- 21 has gone up, they're taking and renovating and lowered

- 1 the ceiling and look at the beautiful handy woodwork and
- 2 runs the price, up, you know. Plus the land has gone
- 3 up. To give you a prime example, where I live when I
- 4 bought my property it was \$1,000 an acre in 1969. That
- 5 same, my land now is worth \$45,000 per acre.
- 6 MS. LEMKE: It's 34 in Carroll County.
- 7 MR. HOLLY: Some areas are more than that, if
- 8 you're closer to the water then it goes up.
- 9 MS. LEMKE: It's virtually impossible for a
- 10 low income family.
- MR. HOLLY: So that's what they tell me. I
- 12 was before the commission about a couple of months ago,
- 13 planning and zoning, they was selling me something about
- 14 what they're trying do to is like if someone has a
- 15 house, a simple bungalow house that's been there for 20
- or 30 years and it's maybe become heir property or
- 17 someone couldn't pay their taxes or something, they will
- 18 take it and get it, and they will renovate it and then
- 19 they'll sell it to someone and they can like rent to
- 20 buy. Well, how often do you get that? One or two a
- 21 year maybe one a year, you know.

Page 81 1 Excuse me, one second, I wanted to MS. PARDO: 2 have Mr. Anderson respond. 3 I'm a Southern baptist and we MR. HOLLY: talk. 4 5 MS. PARDO: No problem, to the question that was raised just before just now, your elected officials, 6 7 do you have any answer for that, I mean. MR. HOLLY: No, they don't talk about it. 8 9 MS. PARDO: How about over in Kent County, any 10 promises that were made to the community that the issues that you're bringing up today were going to be raised. 11

- 12 MR. ANDERSON: No, they never made any 13 promises. What they did, however, is back in the '80s, I guess around 1985, '86 we had an incident that brought 14 15 some things to light. We had a fellow, African American 16 who was an entrepreneur who owned a lot of property, 17 real estate, not up to code but it was providing some 18 housing for African Americans. Some of this property 19 was on the water, right on the Chester River, on what is 20 Water Street.
- He died and then we found out that he did not

- 1 own the property. He had sold the property in the
- 2 interim to a white corporation out of Delaware and when
- 3 he died those African Americans who were living in those
- 4 houses were given a 30-day notice to move. So we filed
- 5 suit against the owner to get a stay and to see if we
- 6 could find housing for those people.
- Well, from that the town said that they would
- 8 renovate some other houses in the town, I believe that
- 9 was in the Cannon Street area and the Cannon Street area
- 10 encompassed another area that's known as Scott's Point.
- 11 Now unbeknownst to us the Scott's Point project was in
- 12 place back in the '40s as to, that they would revitalize
- 13 this area.
- 14 The African Americans in the county didn't
- 15 know that, it was one or two that knew that and so as a
- 16 result of this fellow dying and this corporation buying
- 17 these houses they said we will renovate these houses in
- 18 this area here and when they renovate them and make them
- 19 livable then we will allow the people that are living
- 20 here to come back and rent the houses.
- That was a grand idea except it didn't work

- 1 worth a darn because when they renovated them the folks
- 2 who had lived in there could not afford to pay the rent
- 3 when they renovated them except for one person who
- 4 worked for somebody in town and he subsidized her.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: Did the racial composition change
- 6 when the new housing went in?
- 7 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, it did. Yes, it did
- 8 because that area goes down towards the Chester River
- 9 and it gets sky high. And whites moved in that area and
- 10 in fact most of that area now whites are living in that
- 11 area or have some type of business in that area.
- MR. DARDEN: So did you think there is a
- 13 connection?
- MR. ANDERSON: I think so. I think it goes
- 15 back to the Scott's Point project back in the '40s.
- 16 This was in the plan but we didn't know it that
- 17 eventually they would move those blacks out of that area
- 18 so the whites could move in because Chestertown is a
- 19 tourist type of town and they love to flaunt what a
- 20 great historical town it is, historical housing and
- 21 architecture of those old houses.

- 1 Most of you are familiar with some of those
- 2 houses down on that Water Street area that go back to
- 3 the 16th century. They have a custom house that they're
- 4 renovating now that goes back to the 16th century. I
- 5 think Washington College is doing the renovation on that
- 6 house now, but they take pride in that.
- Now, what they did do is they established some
- 8 low housing up in a place called Calvert Heights which
- 9 is in the northern end of town right on the other side
- 10 of the college which is now falling on hard times. The
- other thing they have done is they have re-routed
- 12 several streets around the black community so when the
- 13 tourists come to town they don't have to see where the
- 14 minorities live. They have done that on both ends of
- 15 town going out towards the Quaker's Neck area and also
- 16 going out towards Rock Hall area so the tourists can
- 17 come through there and they don't have to see those
- 18 areas where blacks live.
- I think one of the best ways to really judge a
- 20 county or a country or a state even is how they treat
- 21 their minorities. But in Kent County they don't treat

- 1 us very well and they never have but they would make
- 2 believe that they do?
- 3 MS. PARDO: Thank you, sir.
- 4 MR. DARDEN: But I thought you said earlier
- 5 that they didn't make any promises so how do they make
- 6 believe that they do.
- 7 MR. ANDERSON: To the outside world they make
- 8 believe that everything is honky-dory, that there are no
- 9 racial problems in Kent County.
- MR. DARDEN: I quess, let me ask you directly,
- 11 if after this meeting we were in contact with the
- 12 elected officials in your county and asked them to
- 13 clarify a question or to provide us with more
- 14 information what kinds of questions should we ask them.
- MR. HOLLY: First of all, they're going to
- 16 tell you there isn't any problem, that's what kind of
- 17 question are you going to ask them.
- MR. OKURA: What is the percentage of the
- minorities in both of your counties, 10, 15, 20, if you
- 20 consider all the people of color?
- MS. PARDO: What's the percentage?

- 1 MR. HOLLY: In Queen Anne's it's hard to say.
- 2 It was around 22 percent but it's been going down and
- 3 the reason I knew that in Queen Anne's because I was in
- 4 the school system and it was based on, you know, they
- 5 were hiring minority teachers based on the percentage of
- 6 minorities in the county and they would brag about the
- 7 fact. And to show you how they did that, in the school
- 8 system they would braq about the fact that we have 25
- 9 percent minorities in our educational system but what
- 10 they didn't tell you is that they were counting
- 11 everybody, they were counting the bus drivers, the
- 12 custodians, everybody, not those directly related on an
- 13 everyday contact with students, the teachers and the
- 14 aides.
- MS. PARDO: We have two more minutes and two
- 16 more questions actually, so actually Dr. Lemke had one
- 17 for a little while.
- 18 MS. LEMKE: My question goes to Mr. Anderson
- 19 and Mr. Holly, are there places in your counties were
- 20 citizens can go, other than the NAACP offices, to
- 21 register complaints? If I believe, for example, I've

- 1 been treated unfairly by the police is there a
- 2 structured process? Some counties do have a way you can
- 3 file a complaint the same way with housing, is there a
- 4 structured way that complaints can be filed so that
- 5 government officials are aware of them or is it just
- 6 resting with the NAACP offices?
- 7 MR. ANDERSON: In Kent County no, there is
- 8 not. We have tried to establish a human relations
- 9 commission for the last six or eight months now and
- 10 we've been before the county commissioner's office on at
- 11 least three occasions and they have turned us down
- 12 because they say there is no need for a human relations
- 13 commission in Kent County.
- MS. LEMKE: So there is no formal complaint
- 15 process?
- MR. ANDERSON: No, there is not.
- MR. HOLLY: In Queen Anne's we do have an ACLU
- 18 office that you can request and receive permission to go
- 19 before the county commissioner's the zoning board or
- 20 planning and zoning, whomever you want, and they will
- 21 grant that. Now what the results are going to be like,

- 1 I was saying a few minutes ago I went before the
- 2 planning commission about housing, low income housing,
- 3 and what I was told was that well, we -- I was even
- 4 shown some pictures of these older houses that have been
- 5 taken, gotten through paying taxes or whatever and
- 6 purchased and sold and that's what they'll point to that
- 7 they are doing and making and then they point blankly
- 8 told me there are no laws or no rules that the county
- 9 commissioners or anyone else has set forth that will
- 10 make these builders include or set aside some low income
- 11 housing, a certain portion of development for under a
- 12 certain price, there are no rules. And they will say
- 13 it's all about money and I just don't see anybody doing
- 14 it.
- MS. PARDO: The last question, if I may
- 16 indulge Mrs. Jones.
- 17 MS. JONES: This is not so much a question as
- 18 a comment. One of you or perhaps both of you mentioned
- 19 education and minority youngsters ending up in special
- 20 ed classes. Well, you may or may not be aware of a
- 21 document that is available to you to get exact data for

- 1 your particular school system.
- 2 MR. HOLLY: I have that data.
- 3 MS. JONES: Do you have this document?
- 4 MR. HOLLY: Yes, it was given to us as a
- 5 state --
- 6 MS. JONES: If you use this document, if you
- 7 take this or share it among individuals because I was
- 8 just looking here at the percentage rate of black
- 9 youngsters as opposed to white youngsters suspended from
- 10 schools. You really need to take a look at that, it's
- 11 really lopsided as it is with youngsters in special
- 12 education, really lopsided.
- Now, at the same time this looks like there
- 14 are some pretty serious issues at work. The state is
- 15 also asking individuals to look at programs to increase
- 16 minority achievement. So the state certainly is aware
- 17 and your counties aren't the only ones that look like
- 18 this either, it's pretty widespread. But I think when
- 19 you take this kind of data to your schools to say --
- 20 because there is not a school in a public school system
- 21 in this state that is not trying to improve, it's a huge

- 1 accountability issue. Kids who look like us are in the
- 2 school system. The school does not improve unless
- 3 everybody is brought along, you see, so there's a vested
- 4 interest here.
- 5 Frequently school administrators don't think
- 6 you have this kind of information. There are
- 7 organizations within your school that are mandated by
- 8 the state, one of them is the school improvement team.
- 9 You can volunteer your services to serve on a school
- 10 improvement team and this is where you bring out the
- issues of concern, so it's not, it's just a statement
- 12 here to make everybody aware that this information is
- 13 available.
- MR. HOLLY: I have that document. As a matter
- of fact, I was given one to pass on to our county
- 16 superintendent and I will be meeting with him pretty
- soon this summer concerning that very thing.
- MS. JONES: Very good.
- MR. HOLLY: You're correct and I have also at
- 20 one point had the commission, human rights commission,
- 21 state human rights commission, come into our county back

- 1 earlier in the mid '90s when I was president before to
- 2 meet with them and from that we set up a county minority
- 3 committee, minority advisory committee, to deal with the
- 4 very issues you're talking about and we had some
- 5 workshops.
- You know what I found out, I found out one of
- 7 the problems is that the teachers feel like they don't
- 8 discriminate but in fact they do and I had, I was in the
- 9 system at that time, I had two of three of them get real
- angry at me because I pointed out to them how they
- 11 discriminated. Not only do they do it but I told them
- 12 how they did it because I had been to workshops put on
- 13 by the Maryland state teacher's association and the NEA
- 14 which showed, demonstrated, those types of things and
- 15 the method by which they do it and I showed them how.
- 16 They got highly pee'd, to say it mildly, with me but I
- 17 didn't care because I knew I was right, I was seeing it
- 18 every day.
- 19 MS. PARDO: Thank you, Mr. Holly, thank you
- 20 Mr. Anderson. Unfortunately, I apologize but we have to
- 21 cut it because we're going to go into the time of the

- 1 other panelists. Thank you both.
- 2 REV. SANDS: Do you have the agenda before
- 3 you? Our next panelists are Miss Gnall, brother
- 4 Sampson.
- 5 I'm going to ask those who are present, state
- 6 by committee members.
- 7 MR. ODOMS: Present.
- REV. SANDS: Prepare to receive the statements
- 9 of our panelists and one of the reasons I do that is
- 10 that we kind of believe in beginning on time where I
- 11 come from and anybody present consists of a quorum. We
- 12 have an appointment with the one who keeps appointments,
- 13 we come on his time or we try to get to be on time so
- 14 I'm just going to begin with those also present on the
- 15 panel and thank you for being here to ask you to,
- insofar as you possibly can, tell us the absolute truth
- 17 as you know it without defaming anyone.
- And I'm going to ask that you make your
- 19 opening statements approximately five minutes so that we
- then would be able to ask questions of you and I
- 21 probably will be stopping you if you go beyond five

- 1 minutes because we may also need to make time for the
- 2 fourth panelist who has not yet arrived but who may
- 3 come. If that does occur I would like to give her time
- 4 to be heard. So I'm going to ask to go down, Talbot
- 5 County, Dorchester County, and then Talbot County again
- 6 being the last three listed here from Caroline County
- 7 and Dorchester County, central counties of the Eastern
- 8 Shore, so Royce Sampson from Talbot County.
- 9 MR. SAMPSON: You want me to go first?
- 10 REV. SANDS: Yes.
- MR. SAMPSON: My name is Royce Sampson from
- 12 Talbot County. One of my roles and why I have so much
- information here I'm the immediate past president of the
- 14 Talbot County branch. I've been doing a lot of research
- and getting a lot of information and what I'm going to
- 16 present to you is racism in jobs in Talbot County. I
- have a book here so I'm going to use it a lot of times
- 18 as a reference, a lot of research that's been done by a
- 19 professor from Eastern Shore. And one of the things I
- 20 want to explain to you for Talbot County, and it says
- 21 right here in the book, black residents of Talbot County

- 1 have felt the pressure of increased cost of living.
- 2 Talbot County has one of the highest
- 3 percentages on the Eastern Shore of elderly residents
- 4 and I'm going to tell you the reason why I'm saying
- 5 that. A lot of the things that's going on in Talbot
- 6 County has driven our brightest and best away. I want
- 7 to say the president of Verizon, the CEO, is from Talbot
- 8 County but if he was in Talbot County he would not be
- 9 president of anything unless he started his own company,
- 10 it's a situation like that.
- A lot of the things I've seen and maybe a lot
- of people don't know about it and don't know how to
- 13 handle it, I've been seeing it, I've experienced it and
- 14 I've been really investigating it eight years. I have
- some people here who can substantiate what I'm going to
- 16 say and I'm going to talk about -- the headlines of
- 17 Friday's paper really brings it out to light.
- We have a new police chief, not new anymore,
- 19 he's been there for three or four years now but
- 20 something that he has done, one of the prides of Talbot
- 21 County when I first moved here was the police force. We

- 1 had a black captain, two black sergeants, a couple of
- 2 black corporals in the force. Talbot County, I think,
- 3 is about maybe 9,000 residents in Easton so that was the
- 4 pride for the whole community and people take pride in
- 5 certain things, like it was very visible.
- 6 Even our captain moved up to police chief so
- 7 that was pride in that county. So anyway he retired and
- 8 we got a new police chief and all of a sudden all the
- 9 black police disappeared, all of a sudden they were no
- 10 good, all kinds of problems with them, they disappeared.
- 11 But there's a new form of racism and he used, and I've
- 12 experienced the same racism in other places that I'm
- 13 going to explain to you. In order to get rid of the
- 14 black police he was willing to sacrifice some white
- 15 police. That way no one could accuse him of racism but
- 16 it's coming back to haunt him now because everybody that
- is leaving his police department and it's coming on the
- 18 front page is about his police tactics. So I'm just not
- 19 making up this stuff, this is true.
- 20 As a president this is something that I
- 21 addressed and many people was at this hearing that I had

- 1 with the town council of Easton and the mayor, and the
- 2 mayor is the one that hired the police chief. Our mayor
- 3 felt that there was no racism in the town of Easton. He
- 4 didn't know, he really felt there was no racism and when
- 5 he said it I really and truly believed he meant it
- 6 because maybe he didn't understand what racism was but
- 7 that was the best thing he could have ever done for our
- 8 town and our county because it brought people out that
- 9 normally maybe wouldn't have said anything to make some
- 10 positive changes but this is the change. The first
- 11 change that have to be made is to get rid of this racist
- 12 police chief because like I say, in getting rid of the
- 13 black police he also got rid of the whites and now
- 14 they're coming back to haunt him, Friday's headline.
- 15 There is this whole page spread on it, this is really in
- 16 depth.
- 17 And I'm going back to this book because it
- 18 bothers me because Talbot County is a beautiful county
- on the Eastern Shore, we drove down here, beautiful
- 20 county. People from Pennsylvania or New York are coming
- 21 here right and left. I know Queen Anne's County

- 1 announced that their percentage is going down not
- 2 because so maybe so many blacks are leaving but so many
- 3 whites are coming in.
- In our case we losing our best and brightest
- 5 and it bothers me. And a lot of it happens through
- 6 racism, and it's the tactics. When you come up with a
- 7 divisive way of sacrificing your own race to get the
- 8 black race you've really got a divisive person and
- 9 that's what has happened. The same thing happened eight
- 10 years ago in Wavery Press which I worked for 45 years
- 11 and when it happened no one was used to any tactics like
- 12 this and when they got rid of -- we had eight black
- 13 supervisors, two presidents, one black manager. In one
- 14 year we were all gone, down and out, and everybody
- 15 didn't know what happened. Because along with them they
- 16 also got rid of some whites so we couldn't say racism,
- 17 we didn't know how to handle it. That was 8 years ago
- 18 so I had a chance to really work on this.
- I have a personal experience, so when I
- 20 retired they were saying how great I was, what an
- 21 outstanding worker I was, and the guy that replaced me

- 1 said I know you should have my job but I didn't have his
- 2 job, I was disgraced. I didn't lose my pride. I said
- 3 some kind of way I'm going to make up for it so I went
- 4 into the community and started working, getting
- 5 research, finding out what's going on to make a
- 6 difference.
- 7 I had to a lot of times address this young
- 8 man, he's my leader. He's the one that helped me do a
- 9 lot of great things and Reverend Sands, he pastors my
- 10 son's church and so when you see me greet those two,
- 11 that's the reason.
- 12 But I got a lot of data here. Like for
- instance, the median income for Talbot County is 48
- 14 percent but it's deceiving because we've got an aging
- 15 population, and then some of the richest people in the
- 16 United States is living in Talbot County. The houses
- 17 they are building in Talbot County the young people
- 18 cannot afford these houses.
- The man that was building the hundred thousand
- 20 dollar houses they ran him out of business, they didn't
- 21 want a normal houses so now the houses start maybe

- 1 180,000. But it all goes around the jobs. If our young
- 2 black people can't get the jobs, or if they get the job
- 3 they got to fight some people coming in to find a way to
- 4 get rid of them we got a serious problem so this man
- 5 here realized we got an aging black population. Why?
- 6 Because all the young people are leaving.
- 7 The success of the people we got in Talbot
- 8 County in unbelievable. They come back and they are
- 9 successful colonels, superintendent of schools, just
- 10 fantastic but not in Talbot County. Another thing I
- 11 want to say because this is very important and the way
- 12 Talbot County do not want to be known as a racist
- 13 county, no way in the world they want to be known as a
- 14 racist county and that's why this guy, I don't think
- will be here long, but the damage that happens when
- 16 people come, the damage that he has done in four years,
- 17 the damage of this man that was at Waverly, the damage
- 18 he's done in eight years, and it's long-term damage has
- 19 to be stopped and this is something that maybe people
- 20 don't realize. But this is happening and we don't know
- 21 how much it happens but I got data and I know it's

- 1 happened at a lot of companies.
- When one person comes in with this divisive
- 3 behavior it destroys the whole black community because
- 4 no one else wants to rise up. They're afraid. They've
- 5 got that fear, they say if they did it to Royce Sampson,
- 6 I know they will do it to me so I'm not even going to
- 7 try, I'm not going to be no manager or president so
- 8 that's a long-term effect.
- 9 This happened at the police department. No
- one wants to rise up because they don't want to go into
- 11 the police department and that was one of our pride at
- one time. So you can see we have a serious problem,
- 13 that's also all over, because there's always some
- 14 divisive person will go there and use this tactic and no
- one knows yet how to deal with it.
- 16 REV. Sands: I'm sure we'll get back to you
- 17 and appreciate that very much. Thank you. Brother
- 18 Ames?
- MR. AMES: Judge Ames.
- MR. ODOMS: All the above.
- 21 MR. AMES: Let me say first it's good to see

- 1 Reverend Sands again. We worked together about 30 some
- 2 years ago, we both were young at one time. And also
- 3 Brother Odoms, state president of the NAACP.
- 4 Dorchester County, it's a neat county, a
- 5 unique county. You've got a southern section, a central
- 6 section and a northern section in Dorchester County.
- 7 When you go down to southern section it's real rural,
- 8 there's a lot of watermen that have been there for
- 9 years. In the central section is where most of the
- 10 black population lives in the Cambridge area. And then
- 11 you go up north to the farming area. It's very -- when
- 12 you take the whole picture -- you've got a lot of old
- 13 family members there.
- I was born and raised in Somerset County and
- 15 I've lived in Dorchester County 32 years. Some of my
- 16 friends in Somerset say they ran me out but I just got
- 17 to Dorchester and stopped. You got as far as
- 18 employment, the chicken plants, pickle plant, fast
- 19 foods, Wal-Mart, nursing homes, and those kind of
- 20 employment. We have a few blacks in education, let me
- 21 just stop. It seems like most of our blacks that went

- 1 into education have got to the point now that they're
- 2 retiring and they're not replacing them with black
- 3 educators and that's going to be a problem down the
- 4 road.
- 5 I was a former school bus contractor in
- 6 Dorchester County for 21 years until September 1st. I
- 7 decided to leave on my own because I really wasn't
- 8 satisfied with some of the things I saw in the school
- 9 system and I said I'm getting a paycheck from them then
- 10 maybe I have to do what they want me to do, but if I'm
- 11 out and I'm not getting a paycheck maybe I can help
- 12 correct some of these situations.
- 13 Let's go back to the city of Cambridge, that's
- 14 where most of the blacks live and we do have five city
- 15 commissioners. At one time we had two blacks on the
- 16 council. We have districts for the Dorchester County
- 17 commissioner and we have one black serving up in the
- 18 Caroline area. We have one black on the county counsel
- 19 and I sit on the -- orphan's board.
- 20 But getting back to the city of Cambridge a
- 21 few years ago a bunch of us blacks got together and

- 1 started working on an empowerment center on the site
- 2 where the old pine beach school. And we had a young
- 3 lady, Miss Saunders, that really worked hard to get that
- 4 empowerment center. She's no longer on the council and
- 5 it seems like this council we have now is stonewalling
- 6 them and they don't really want them to be the head
- 7 haunchos of that empowerment center. If you want to
- 8 direct some questions later on about the empowerment
- 9 center I do have Reverend Dr. Wallace here and he can
- 10 address some of those issues because he's worked on the
- 11 committee.
- 12 Another opportunity for Dorchester County, as
- 13 I see it, we have a lot of young people that get in a
- 14 position to purchase, are first-time homeowners but
- 15 quess what, they don't have the money for the closing
- 16 costs so they need help in that area.
- Then the few plants we have here, and this is
- 18 happening all across these United States, you're getting
- 19 people that are getting 25 years of service and then all
- 20 of a sudden they have a reduction in force and these
- 21 people are out with no jobs or they have to get some

- 1 other type of employment most of the time or get less
- 2 employment than what they've had. We probably have one
- 3 or two unionized plants. Allen Food, they're unionized
- 4 but as you know back in the '80s with a certain
- 5 president, and I won't call his name, we all know him,
- 6 his game was to bust the unions and the unions are not
- 7 as strong as they were when I first moved to Dorchester
- 8 County because I went there to work in a union plant.
- 9 We talked about special ed and very truly when
- 10 you talk about the special ed in the school system I
- 11 tell our parents to be very careful when they want to
- 12 put their child in special ed. They use this mechanism
- 13 that your child is disruptive in class and they put them
- in special ed. And there's a lot of county dollars to
- 15 the school system because of having that special ed
- 16 population so you need to watch that.
- Are my five minutes up?
- 18 REV. SANDS: You have two minutes.
- MR. HILL: Yes.
- 20 REV. SANDS: Thank you, we'll come back to
- 21 you.

1 MR. HILL: My name is Hilburn Hill. 2 wanted to make two points before I get into my 3 presentation. One, I knew Royce was going to be here but we have a lot -- I worked at the same place he 4 worked for 20 years and I had an interesting experience 5 during that time. When I was able to notice that there 6 7 was racism I became very frustrated and I set out to do something about it and I talked to some of the black 8 professionals I knew at that time. And one gentleman 9 10 referred me to a Maryland board, a director who was a 11 black member, Mabeline Noble [phonetic], she's deceased 12 She was also the only black member of our board at 13 that time and someone connected me with her and I spoke with her. I told her about the situation and how 14 15 frustrating it was. And she said to me at that time 16 would I be willing to talk to other members of the board 17 about the situation at the company at that time. 18 said I'd talk to anybody about the situation and so that 19 was on a Friday afternoon, and I can remember just as 2:0 though it was yesterday, and that Monday morning when I 21 got back to work the vice-president of the company

- 1 called me in and said to me if I ever talk to another
- 2 member of the board of directors I'd be terminated
- 3 immediately, so this was back in the 70s.
- And I'd like to address another issue that
- 5 Miss Jones was talking about people who look like us in
- 6 the school system. Back in the '70s, I was also a
- 7 member of the White House Conference on Minorities and
- 8 Youth and the job of that task force was to determine
- 9 why people on the Eastern Shore, kids on the Eastern
- 10 Shore, were not learning. And there was a law passed in
- 11 the state of Maryland in regard to sensitivity training
- 12 that was for all 23 counties. It was working on the
- 13 western shore, it was not working very well on the
- 14 Eastern Shore. So Dale Webb, many of you may know Dale
- 15 Webb, he and I were on the same committee and what we
- 16 did was each on the committee, each one of us had a
- 17 county on the Eastern Shore. I had Caroline County and
- 18 Talbot County and we visited, started at the top talking
- 19 to the superintendents in the schools all the way down
- 20 to the students and what we found was that the kids
- 21 found it very difficult to relate to the people who

- 1 taught them and who supervised them. They didn't see
- 2 enough people who looked like themselves and as George
- 3 Ames was saying with the people retiring and not being
- 4 replaced it makes it very, very uncomfortable for people
- 5 who need that kind of support.
- Now, I'll begin my presentation. Historically
- 7 there's been an imbalance of authority and power on the
- 8 Eastern Shore. In Talbot County specifically people of
- 9 color have not been significantly represented in the
- 10 county or in county government, although this same
- 11 situation exists for the most part in the educational
- 12 and economic systems.
- Incidentally, for the record, the town of
- 14 Easton does currently have a minority representative,
- 15 just voted in in the last election. This individual is
- only the second minority on the council in the entire
- 17 history of the council. There are no minorities on the
- 18 county council.
- 19 The town of Easton is in the process of
- 20 recognizing its first human relations commission but
- 21 does not want to grant it subpoena power. This is

- 1 importantly in the business sector where the majority of
- 2 the upper management staff are members of the larger
- 3 community. All of the aforementioned tends to develop
- 4 and support a very primitive cultural dynamic. When it
- 5 comes to getting our needs met or enhancing our quality
- of life we're almost entirely at the discretion of the
- 7 larger community.
- 8 Many years ago, this is a part of my
- 9 presentation I just said earlier about what happened at
- 10 Waverly Press, but specifically in regard to my personal
- 11 situation in the '80s and '90s I got caught in a couple
- of downsizings, therefore when I became employed at my
- 13 former place of employment I was prepared to go the
- 14 extra mile to maintain my employment. I was known for
- working 50 and 60 hour weeks, Saturdays and Sundays,
- 16 worked both ends of some holidays.
- On a couple of occasions security would call
- 18 me at 10 o'clock at night to tell me that one of my new
- 19 recruits hadn't shown up and without notice I would
- leave my home at that hour and make the necessary
- 21 provisions. On Monday, June 4th I was on my way to an

- 1 assignment in Delaware when I was paged to return to the
- 2 office. I met with my vice president and was
- 3 subsequently released, no warning of any kind in writing
- 4 or otherwise. My office staff and my peers are still
- 5 not believing this.
- There are many other examples that I could
- 7 mention but I'm sure this doesn't come as a surprise to
- 8 anyone who is familiar with the Eastern Shore. In the
- 9 larger metropolitan areas people of color are more
- 10 significantly represented in areas that effect their
- 11 quality of life. But folk that inhabit these
- 12 communities are more likely to speak up when they feel
- 13 somehow disenfranchised.
- 14 For the most part on the Eastern Shore and
- 15 Talbot County, specifically, we don't speak up in
- 16 significant enough numbers to make a difference.
- 17 There's a good chance this human relations commission
- 18 will make a difference to help level the playing field
- and consequently be the advocate for the balance of
- 20 power in authority in Talbot County. But that's not
- 21 necessarily so by itself. There must be other watchdog

- 1 agencies and members of the community that galvanize
- 2 together to make sure that our quality of life is
- 3 sustained and maintained.
- 4 REV. SANDS: Thank you. Has Miss Gnall
- 5 arrived?
- I'm going to now have our panelists take any
- 7 questions that you have for them. We are in a
- 8 discussion period and there may be some things that they
- 9 left out due to our time requirement. First of all, do
- 10 you have any particular questions for any of our panel
- 11 members?
- 12 Are you employed in the county now?
- MR. HILL: No, this just happened 4th of June.
- 14 It was totally unexpected. I'm taking some hospitality
- 15 courses now, I have another goal in sight and I wasn't
- 16 really going to come to this hearing today because of
- 17 the embarrassment but what I felt was that this kind of
- 18 stuff has got to stop. This happened through no fault
- 19 of my own. I was completely I unaware of it but this is
- 20 the kind of thing that this goes on and if it can happen
- 21 to me, like Royce was saying, after 45 years it can

- 1 happen to anyone.
- What that does it stifles the youth who are
- 3 looking for growth, for maturity, for advancement to
- 4 develop a quality of life. When the young people see
- 5 these kinds of things happen to people they know and
- 6 respect then they feel there's no hope for them, like
- 7 Royce was saying they go to other places and the issue
- 8 doesn't get dealt with and does not get resolved and
- 9 continues to permeate.
- 10 MS. GILMORE: First, there is absolutely no
- 11 personal embarrassment involving that and kudos to you
- 12 for being outspoken about it. A couple of questions,
- 13 first, to all the other panelists, thank you for your
- 14 presentations. Are you doing something, are you saying
- 15 something, have you put in some type of complaint or
- 16 grievance regarding your dismissal?
- MR. HILL: I have not. Several people have
- 18 asked me about that and I'm sort of deliberating on it
- 19 at this point. I probably should. Obviously I've got a
- 20 case but I'm still in the thought process about that.
- 21 REV. SANDS: This is, I'm sure, not at all

- 1 comfortable to have to talk about it without being
- 2 prepared and among strangers at that so I'm really glad
- 3 you're here and raising confidence of the persons
- 4 complaining in many situations such as that and it's
- 5 very difficult to determine whether it will give you any
- 6 comfort. Sometimes those who run the system run the
- 7 complete system, you go there to complain and you're
- 8 still in the hands of the same people.
- 9 MS. GILMORE: I have actually another
- 10 question. There is a lot of implied something in that.
- 11 To all of the panelists are there any initiatives that
- 12 you are adopting to get the youth more involved in
- 13 advocacy or involved in knowing exactly what their
- 14 rights are?
- MR. AMES: I talked to a lot of people. Some
- of the response I get they tell me Mr. Ames, I just
- wouldn't go through all that hassle that you go through
- 18 trying to get things done. Or they don't understand
- 19 what has happened in the past and what's happening now.
- 20 They don't understand the system. Even my own grown
- 21 children in their late 30s said if I were 60 years old

- 1 I'd just give up and stop doing anything because I
- 2 wouldn't go through that kind of stuff.
- 3 But on the other hand one of the things that
- 4 I'm going through our branch, we developed a full
- 5 scholarship fund and we've got kids going to college to
- 6 help them to defer some of that cost. And just the last
- 7 two we have they were so happy to go that they came,
- 8 they sent me their transcripts, their grades, one had a
- 9 3.6, the other had a 3.0 but I think what we all of us
- 10 know just because you go to college and you get that
- 11 degree there is no guarantee that you going to get a job
- 12 just because you got that degree.
- If you get a job you're going to have to work
- 14 hard and work smart and do those kinds of things because
- 15 let's face it, the game is not fair, we've got to
- 16 instill that in our young people. I was taught a lot by
- 17 my grandfather. I learned he did many part-time jobs at
- 18 the same time because I know that they might cut me off
- 19 at the path here so you would have this other job to
- 20 fall back on so but it's a struggle, it's a struggle and
- 21 we've constantly got to keep talking and telling our

- 1 young people that in spite of that we can move forward.
- 2 So I spend a lot of time with young people and
- 3 I hope that in my presentation in working with them will
- 4 really open up and make a difference.
- 5 MR. SAMPSON: You know in my case I work with
- 6 the youth council in Talbot County and they're able to
- 7 find jobs for young people. I put a lot of energy into
- 8 that because I had found a lot, I got all kinds of --
- 9 anything you want to know about Talbot County I got.
- 10 What really bothers me when kids get discouraged. Like
- 11 I said with the police department that was the pride of
- 12 Talbot and when this guy came in and did this nobody
- wants to be a policeman, they don't even want to join
- 14 it. Same way with the Waverly Press when I left and
- 15 Cabot [phonetic], it happened through the transition
- 16 from Waverly which was an outstanding company to Cabot
- 17 which was the new company that bought it, the change.
- 18 In fact, now no African Americans there want to apply
- 19 for supervisor, they don't want to move up, they want to
- 20 stay where they are. So what happened had a really
- 21 trickle down effect that's going to last for a lost

- 1 time. This is kind of a new form that I don't think
- 2 people realize what's going on, know how to address it,
- 3 because anytime they are willing to sacrifice their own
- 4 just to get rid of the African American leadership you
- 5 really got some divisive people and we got to get some
- 6 strategy to deal with that. This is brand new what's
- 7 happened but it's coming back to haunt him, and they're
- 8 going to have to get rid of him but he has really done
- 9 the damage. He'll go on somewhere else and do the same
- 10 thing.
- So how to address these people, I really don't
- 12 know. This is really a challenge that I'm going to have
- 13 to deal with. It's going to take people higher up to
- 14 stop it. In the police department when he started
- 15 there, he just thought he was a great guy, he was going
- 16 to build a fence around the parking lot, anything you
- want to do, he just thought he was a great guy but now
- 18 it's catching up with him. I don't know how the mayor
- 19 can deal with this because now police, white policemen,
- 20 are coming out against him so his time is numbered but
- 21 I'm concerned the damage he has done and there's so many

- 1 like him.
- 2 MR. DARDEN: Excuse me, I just wanted to
- 3 interject. We did have here, I don't see her now, Linda
- 4 Watkins Henry. Mr. Hill, I just wanted you to know she
- 5 was here. She's the equal opportunity officer for this
- 6 part of the -- for the Eastern Shore and she asked me to
- 7 be sure to read her telephone number to someone like
- 8 yourself who is interested in filing a complaint. I can
- 9 give that to you now or you can see me later.
- 10 MR. HILL: I'd like to address that comment
- 11 that you made. One of the things that happens with the
- 12 youth is that youth hear what's going on with the
- 13 adults, there's an issue that just was brought to my
- 14 attention yesterday about this lady who worked in this
- 15 particular place of employment in Dorchester County for
- 16 18 years. She was injured on the job and subsequently
- was sent off on workman's comp and upon an evaluation
- 18 was determined that she could only do light duty and
- 19 sedentary work.
- The company said they didn't have any place
- 21 for her to work in a light-duty environment and she is

- 1 subsequently now on an unpaid medical leave and she's
- 2 been forced to be on welfare with her and her daughter.
- 3 She's getting food stamps and she's getting subsidy for
- 4 her apartment all because talk about knowing what your
- 5 rights are, and she got a lawyer who obviously is not
- 6 competent and because the situation continues to go on
- 7 she is very frustrated.
- Now, I know a little bit about the workman's
- 9 comp law in the state of Maryland. I know that if they
- 10 can't find a place for you, if you're injured through no
- 11 fault of your own that they are liable, it's
- 12 compensable. You just cannot throw that person out in
- the street because they can no longer do the job if they
- 14 were injured in your facility. But because of not
- 15 knowing, in many cases the adults don't know what their
- 16 rights are, they can't impart that information to the
- 17 children so and the children hear the adults talking
- 18 about these kinds of things that we talk about, the
- 19 kings of things that George and Royce talk about and
- 20 they get discouraged and subliminally they hear the
- 21 thing over time and everybody, you know, they leave.

- 1 They just say I'm not going to put up with the hassle,
- 2 I'm not going to do it when I know I can go across the
- 3 Bay Bridge and have a much different kind of life, a
- 4 different quality of life.
- 5 So this has to be attacked at the root and
- 6 systematically done with a number of agencies and a lot
- 7 of committed people. And it's going to take time, it's
- 8 not going to happen in my life.
- 9 MS. GILMORE: There are people like yourselves
- 10 who are community leaders who recognize the need for
- 11 education for people to know about their rights. If you
- 12 educate the adults it will trickle down another way, and
- 13 it is difficult. We're not dealing with overt racism
- 14 anymore. And it's very easy to deal with overt
- 15 situations but when it becomes covert like the gentleman
- 16 was saying you don't know how to attack it but there is
- 17 a way. There's basically strategizing about it and
- 18 talking about it and letting people not get away with
- 19 it. That's my comment.
- 20 MR. HILL: This lady said to me yesterday, she
- 21 said you know that people, they like you not to say

- 1 anything and everybody likes to maintain the status quo,
- 2 everybody is afraid to speak up. If everybody feels
- 3 that way then the issues continue to fester and they
- 4 stay alive and real and no change, no effective change
- 5 happens.
- 6 MS. GILMORE: Your question was have you
- 7 remedied some of this stuff.
- MR. SAMPSON: Lawsuit.
- 9 MS. GILMORE: How do you remedy this lawsuit.
- MR. SAMPSON: But without all the specifics
- 11 I'll give you something that happened in my own family
- 12 with my brother who is eight years older and he worked
- on this particular job for ten years, did a magnificent
- job, hurt himself on the job so before they put him on
- workman's comp they made him use up all his sick leave
- and so he called and he said what do you think we should
- 17 do. I said we need to get Saointz, Miles & Kirk on this
- 18 one. So immediately when they got on the case they had
- denied him his unemployment, he got this unemployment,
- 20 disability he said because we stood up to the board.
- 21 But he kind of smiled when we say lawsuits, lawsuits and

- 1 NAACP and ACLU. I work closely with the ACLU in
- 2 Centreville and I have to say that a lot of what
- 3 happened on Eastern Shore in Maryland has been because
- 4 of folks like ACLU because they have been a godsend to
- 5 us on the Eastern Shore and I have sense enough to know
- 6 that I can't do all the civil rights work by myself so I
- 7 need all the help I can get.
- 8 MR. SAMPSON: I'd like to give a little data
- 9 here. Take in Talbot County the median home value is
- 10 130,000 going up.
- 11 REV. SANDS: What is it?
- MR. SAMPSON: 130 and going up. In the
- 13 African American community the top paying jobs that most
- of them are in is \$207 a week so no way can they get the
- 15 American dream of buying a home because they're going
- 16 up. Even older homes are going up. So we have a
- 17 serious problem with the quality of life in Talbot
- 18 County for our young people and that's what I'm working
- on. I'm dedicating a lot of time and energy. What are
- 20 we doing, we know what we need, me and Henry been
- 21 sitting together a long time trying to resolve this but

- 1 it's hard but we're not going to give up the fight.
- MR. DARDEN: I have a question. Judge Ames, I
- 3 know you're a good judge but where do you -- what court?
- 4 MR. AMES: Offering court in Dorchester.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: I was asking, I had a question
- 6 about administration of justice that I thought you might
- 7 be familiar with.
- 8 MR. AMES: Let me give you my background. For
- 9 nine years before I became a judge I was a district
- 10 court commissioner. Up until I got into the position
- 11 they never had any one of us in those positions and I
- 12 did that for nine years but I had taken all the courses
- 13 and all that kind of thing before I got there so how I
- 14 got to become an offerings [phonetic] court judge,
- 15 again, with the help of ACLU we had to go and cut some
- 16 districts because I serve with some folks on the bench
- 17 right now who do not have the college background nor the
- 18 experience that I have but they are of a different color
- 19 than me.
- In fact, in some cases I have to read the case
- 21 for them because they can't pronounce the words, you

- 1 understand. But I have ran for offerings judge court in
- 2 '99 at large and I wasn't successful even though I
- 3 pulled 20 percent of the vote in Dorchester County
- 4 because it was not time to have a black on that bench.
- 5 So with Chris Brown and ACLU we devised a district, the
- 6 district just happened to be in the area where I lived
- 7 and I was able to get there, I'm in my second term.
- 8 But getting back to the administration of
- 9 justice I'm glad you brought that up because that was
- 10 one of the points I made. I look on our circuit courts
- and I look at our district courts and here's what I look
- 12 at. You know how that record come out in the paper
- about the sentencing, the same charge, the same
- 14 conviction, one goes to jail, one goes to PBJ, do you
- 15 see the difference?
- MR. DARDEN: PBJ, what does that mean?
- 17 MR. AMES: Probation before judgment. If you
- do certain things your record is clean. But I'm talking
- 19 about first time 18 and 19-year-old kid simple assault
- 20 charge and a lot of folks don't know what assault charge
- 21 is but that's touching another without permission, so I

- 1 just assaulted him, he didn't give me the permission.
- 2 MS. GILMORE: But he smiled so it was
- 3 cancelled.
- 4 MR. AMES: But this is what I look at. I have
- 5 an opportunity because I'm a court judge I have a lot of
- 6 attorneys that appear before our court and they will see
- 7 me on the street, you know how they tell you a thing in
- 8 confidence but say if you say I said it I'll deny it.
- 9 They told me one day, says, tell all the young blacks if
- 10 they get simple charges stay in district court, don't
- 11 ask to go to circuit court for a jury trial because if
- 12 the jury convicts you the circuit court judge or the
- 13 judicial court judge gives days, the circuit court judge
- 14 gives years on the same charges so you have to look at
- 15 it. Yeah, I'd be crazy to say that there's not a
- 16 disparity here in the sentencing and the treatment that
- 17 you'll get in those courts.
- 18 MR. DARDEN: What sort of discretion do judges
- 19 have in Maryland in these cases?
- MR. AMES: It's unlimited because, it's
- 21 unlimited in a sense but if you realize a few years ago

- 1 there came about certain charges with the sentencing
- 2 guidelines so that gives the judge -- say in this
- 3 particular charge if you're found guilty of, you're just
- 4 talking about circuit court right now and it says a year
- 5 to ten years. You might have this judge over in circuit
- 6 court say okay, I have a right to do the ten because
- 7 that's what'the sentence guideline says, one to ten, you
- 8 see?
- And a lot -- and see, you got to look at
- 10 something else in our county, we've got a lot of senior
- 11 citizens. When I say senior citizens I was telling
- 12 Mr. Odoms even in our branch 60 years up, we got one
- person 92 years old. They don't have the energy or the
- 14 time to go out and fight but they're good people, they
- 15 understand what happened because they had to go through
- 16 certain things and they're just tired. You get tired
- 17 fighting the fight after a while and that's what
- 18 happens. So that's why I had sense enough to learn that
- 19 I couldn't go and work by myself so if I see something
- 20 I'm not sure, I'll drop a letter off to the ACLU, read
- 21 this over and give me your views on it, or I'll call my

- 1 brother over there and say, look, tell me what you think
- 2 on this or where we should go.
- We need to know how to take advantage of the
- 4 system and those opportunities that we can go to to get
- 5 the redress that we need. And if we could just keep
- 6 preaching that to our people, not only preaching but
- 7 when it comes, wait a minute, let's see can we get the
- 8 ACLU involved with this one or can we go this route.
- 9 The city of Cambridge, they came up with an ordinance of
- 10 bicycles excluded from the sidewalk. Before I would
- 11 speak on it I wrote a letter to the ACLU and had their
- 12 attorney to look at it and see whether it was
- 13 constitutional or not, so I got it back and they said
- 14 it's not constitutional so I went to see the city
- 15 attorney but they called me a rabble rouser. I said
- 16 wait a minute, I want to show you something here, you
- 17 can have a copy of this.
- But we really got to look at educating our
- 19 people the routes where they can either go get redress,
- 20 this will probably help it. Now, let's face it, I'm 60
- 21 years old, a lot of things happened before I came on the

- 1 scene and it's happening now and still going to be here
- 2 when I'm gone.
- I tell you racism has gotten my energy level
- 4 back up. I told you I said I worked for the company for
- 5 21 years and I got up because I didn't like what they
- 6 was doing. Well, when I left two weeks ago one of the
- 7 blacks told us, this particular person you the biggest
- 8 fool I ever seen in my life, you had it working there
- 9 with you, said he's going to give you a hard row to hoe
- 10 now and I've started the process to straighten up some
- of that stuff that he's pulled. But and I've traveled
- 12 up the road a lot and I meet people -- he was over to
- 13 his mayor, I was there, right on the front row with him,
- 14 staring him right in the face and the more they'd ask me
- 15 questions the dumber his comments became.
- MR. DARDEN: Just a followup on the discretion
- 17 question with the judges. Do you know of any scientific
- 18 approach to determining whether or to what extent
- 19 there's racial disparity in sentencing?
- MR. AMES: I think that was one of the things
- 21 that, Jenkins can correct me, didn't we start doing a

- 1 study on this in the NAACP or is he asleep?
- 2 MR. ODOMS: No, not yet.
- MR. AMES: That was a discussion that we were
- 4 going to do.
- 5 MR. ODOMS: Yes, in our political action we're
- 6 working on that.
- 7 MR. DARDEN: So you don't have anything
- 8 definitive now?
- 9 MR. ODOMS: No, not at this time.
- 10 MR. DARDEN: And obviously --
- 11 MS. GILMORE: I think Dwight Sullivan is also
- doing something, there is definitely studies being done.
- MR. DARDEN: But at this point --
- 14 MR. AMES: We don't have the definitive
- information that you could use to support what you need
- 16 to do.
- MR. DARDEN: But you do have the -- it's your
- 18 perception that there is.
- 19 MR. AMES: That's correct.
- MR. DARDEN: And that's why you're following
- 21 it. If that's the case, suppose it turns out to be the

- 1 case that you have a wide racial disparity in
- 2 sentencing, what do you do about it?
- MR. AMES: Let's say in my mind's eye I think
- 4 that we're going to come up with that report that shows
- 5 that there is a wide disparity, I think that's going to
- 6 really happen. I think that's why we're going to have
- 7 to bring in other groups and put pressure on the
- 8 judicial system of Maryland to do what it's supposed to
- 9 do.
- We're probably right now in a favorable
- 11 position since we have Chief Judge Bell as the chief
- 12 judge of the judicial system in the state of Maryland to
- do some of those things that we need to be done. If
- 14 this report comes out the way I think it's going to
- 15 because as you know Judge Bell was a former activist
- 16 before he even went to law school so I would think he
- 17 would be most sympathetic to our cause simply because he
- 18 went through things if this report proves it and I'm
- 19 quite sure that this report is going to prove that.
- 20 REV. SANDS: Mr. Black, would you care to come
- 21 up and join Mr. Sampson there. Walter Black is the

- 1 former vice chair of this committee the last time we met
- 2 on the Eastern Shore.
- MR. DARDEN: Let me explain, Mr. Black was
- 4 expected to be a panelist at this time but due to some
- 5 miscommunication in our office he wasn't listed on the
- 6 agenda. Our apologize, Mr. Black.
- 7 MR. BLACK: No need to apologize, that's all
- 8 right, no problem, I knew I would get my day in court.
- 9 REV. SANDS: You had a quick question?
- 10 MS. LEMKE: I had a quick question, the same
- 11 question I asked the last panel. In your counties are
- 12 there formal avenues that you can use to address
- 13 complaints of discrimination to public agencies, say, in
- 14 policing or housing or education? Do they have
- 15 procedures such that you can file complaints?
- MR. AMES: You're asking do we have any
- 17 citizen's human relations commission?
- 18 MS. LEMKE: Yes.
- MR. AMES: They have one in Cambridge, I don't
- 20 know how active it is. They used to have a citizen's
- 21 police board, in fact, I sat on it for a while and they

- 1 disbanded that. We are fortunate we do have the
- 2 Maryland human relations commission located in Cambridge
- 3 that you can go and file a complaint.
- I get a lot of complaints that maybe I don't
- 5 have the expertise or the time to handle that, I will
- 6 contact other agencies that specialize in this but in
- 7 our county, no, I would say the human relations
- 8 commission that we had is now defunct. The police board
- 9 is defunct.
- I was watching the argument in Easton about
- 11 trying to get a human relations -- I don't see any sense
- of having one that doesn't have subpoena powers and the
- one in Cambridge did not have subpoena powers. They
- 14 were appointed by the mayor and council. They got the
- information but in the ultimate the mayor and council
- 16 made the decision so that's why I've been watching the
- one they're trying to get in Easton real closely and I
- 18 really commend Councilwoman Jackson for the amount of
- 19 energy she's putting into it in trying to get these
- 20 subpoena powers.
- MR. HILL: I'd like to say one thing about that

- 1 issue. I had addressed it in my presentation. The
- 2 human relations commission in Easton is going to be a
- 3 reality but how effective it's going to be is going to
- 4 be questioned and the whole issue is based on the
- 5 attorneys for the town of Easton, I think his name is
- 6 Kehoe. And he's saying that the town of Easton, the
- 7 human relations committee should not have subpoena
- 8 power. And what Town Councilperson Jackson is saying
- 9 who incidentally is instrumental in bringing this to the
- 10 forefront, she spearheaded the group to get this to
- 11 become a reality.
- 12 There are two counties on the western shore
- 13 that have human relations commissions that have subpoena
- 14 power. I think they are the only ones in the state.
- 15 And attorney Jackson was using that as an example saying
- 16 that the town of Easton can surely do so because look at
- 17 these two counties on the western shore. Somehow
- 18 attorney Kehoe was saying it's not legal, that they
- 19 don't have the authority to do that. That's what he's
- 20 saying. I heard him say that so they're still in some
- 21 sort of stalemate as to whether they're going to grant

- 1 the commission subpoena powers unless you have some more
- 2 information.
- MR. ODOMS: Can you state your name and what
- 4 county for the record, please?
- 5 MR. BLACK: Okay, my name is Walter Weldon
- 6 Black, Jr. I'm the president of the Talbot County
- 7 branch of the NAACP and if you don't mind a little
- 8 historical trivia, back in the late '60s I was very
- 9 privileged to be a member of the Maryland advisory
- 10 committee to the U.S. commission on civil rights.
- 11 With regard to the proposal for an Easton
- 12 human relations commission a couple of things, again a
- 13 little trivia. Amongst you of the Maryland advisory
- 14 committee you have the expert on human relation
- 15 commissions in none other than Reverend Douglas Sands,
- 16 who at the age of 25 back in 1959 was appointed as the
- 17 first executive director of the Maryland human relations
- 18 commission. And for those of you who might wonder what
- 19 a young Douglas Sands looked like back then I brought
- 20 him a picture from my file.
- One of the significant things about that

- 1 article is that it addresses something we're talking
- 2 about here now, the effectiveness of the human relations
- 3 commission. And let me tell you our position, I mean
- 4 the NAACP is going to be on it. First, and as a result
- 5 of a large public meeting that was held in Easton,
- 6 Maryland I think it was in October or maybe November of
- 7 the year 2000 and that meeting was called because the
- 8 mayor of the town said that he didn't know of any racism
- 9 that occurred in the town of Easton.
- 10 So at that meeting we, being the NAACP, made
- 11 the suggestion that maybe His Honor would want to
- 12 propose the creation of a human relations commission
- 13 that would have and the newspaper accounts will verify
- 14 this, that will have subpoena power.
- Now our position is real simple, if it ain't
- 16 got subpoena power we don't want it, we will oppose it.
- 17 Otherwise it's just going to be another forum to meet
- and greet and talk about and there's nothing wrong with
- 19 that, by the way, but we have a nice organization in
- 20 Easton called True Colors in Talbot County that's very
- 21 capable of doing things like that.

- 1 But what we really need is somebody to say
- 2 racism is wrong and this act is wrong and let's stop it.
- 3 Now when it comes to other violations of law we don't
- 4 have a lot of this crap about going, a lot of this stuff
- 5 about going back and forth about whether or not we can
- 6 tell or require the person who is committing the
- 7 infraction to stop.
- 8 Example, in Easton, Maryland years ago there
- 9 was the Wishing Well Motel owned by a perennial opponent
- 10 of civil rights in none other than Mr. Sam Settle
- 11 [phonetic]. Well, it was because of the subpoena power,
- 12 the cease and desist power of the authority of the
- 13 Maryland commission on human relations we made him, he
- 14 caved in immediately when we filed suit against him and
- 15 he desegregated his motel.
- Now, that was back in '66, admittedly that was
- 17 a long time ago but subpoena was necessary then and it's
- 18 sure enough necessary now. Fact of the matter is there
- 19 are some members of the town council in Easton that
- 20 don't want subpoena power and we're going to oppose it
- 21 if it ain't got it.

1 Do you have a statement you want REV. SANDS: to make in addition to what you've already said? 2 3 MR. BLACK: Well, to touch on a few problems that we see in the county, I mean there are many 4 problems but let me start off with this matter of police 5 misconduct. And Mr. Sampson made mention of that and 6 7 perhaps Mr. Hill too with regard to Easton and Talbot 8 County. We have what I believe to be a very serious problem with the Easton police department. We receive 9 complaints and these complaints have to do with 10 11 misconduct on behalf of the police department. 12 believe that the fruit isn't falling too far from the 13 tree on this one in the sense that the new police chief, it's been four years, he has set the tone for this. 14 15 We had a black man who was stopped for driving 16 his car. He had a diabetic attack. In the process the 17 Easton police department broke his ankle. They took him 18 Hospital the nurse who happened to be the wife 19 of one of the arresting officers said oh, Mr. Savoy has 20 been here before, he's having a diabetic attack. 21 cover their tracks what they did, they, being the police

- 1 officers, went and charged him and those of us who have
- 2 been around for a few years you know this follows the
- 3 same old pattern, the CYA program of police officers,
- 4 whether it's Easton, Maryland or anywhere in America.
- 5 After they rough up a victim they always charge the
- 6 victim to justify the policeman's misconduct and it was
- 7 no different in this situation.
- Well, we, the NAACP, received the complaint
- 9 and we were able to engage the services of a lawyer
- 10 there in Easton who represented Mr. Savoy and the
- 11 state's attorney dropped the charges, threw them all
- out, there wasn't any preliminary hearing.
- Now, the way that Mr. Savoy realized that the
- 14 warrant was out for him was because well, this incident
- 15 happened in December of '99. Then in August of 2000 he
- 16 was driving again. Now admittedly maybe he needs to
- 17 stop driving but evidently he had the same thing, a
- 18 diabetic attack while driving and he pulled his car
- 19 over. This time the state troopers took his license and
- 20 ran it through whatever they do, dispatcher, computer,
- 21 and found out that there was an outstanding warrant for

- 1 what had happened in December of '99.
- Now, look, Mr. Savoy is a 74-year-old black
- 3 man lives right next door to the substation in Easton,
- 4 Maryland, literally, so they weren't interested in --
- 5 the only thing they were interested in doing was
- 6 protecting themselves if the matter came up.
- Well, the matter did come up, charges -- now
- 8 you know we wouldn't entertain any civil suit against
- 9 the town of Easton, you know we wouldn't do that, but
- 10 just in case, just in case we got a great revelation
- 11 that just might happen, that probably will happen, that
- 12 will happen. And what we feel is that if we start
- 13 making it expensive enough for the town of Easton
- 14 because of this Rambo guy who is now the police chief
- 15 they will see fit to get rid of the police chief.
- 16 That's just one case.
- We went to trial this week with another case,
- 18 police misconduct, lawsuit, civil lawsuit. There are
- 19 two other cases. Two, three months ago the police
- 20 department based on unsubstantiated manufactured verbal
- 21 testimony went to Judge Horn of the circuit court and

- 1 got an order, what do you call these orders where the
- 2 police can just go on in your house, they don't need a
- 3 warrant, search warrant. Knocked down the lady's door,
- 4 arrested the lady. The lady is on disability, put her
- 5 on the floor, handcuffed her, took her to the police
- 6 station, did the usual stuff, the fingerprint, the mug
- 7 shot and all like that. When it went up to preliminary
- 8 hearing the district, the district Judge Atkins threw it
- 9 out, Bill Atkins' son, threw it out. That's going to
- 10 cost somebody something if we have our way.
- Now, two weeks later they went back to the
- 12 same lady's -- oh, by the way, after they knocked the
- lady's door down, they found out they were wrong they
- 14 put the door back up. Have you ever heard of the
- 15 policemen doing that before? Now it was nice of them to
- 16 do that but they did that.
- So these are problems that we're having with
- 18 police misconduct. And you mentioned sir, Mr. Darden,
- 19 you raised the issue of administration of justice. One
- of the things that we're considering in the branch is,
- 21 and we talked this over with our national office about

- 1 this. Now, Miss Juanita Mitchell was great for this,
- 2 calling on the justice department to conduct an
- 3 investigation of the administration of justice in the
- 4 town of Easton police department so I've talked long
- 5 enough, not that we don't have many other problems in
- 6 the county.
- 7 I did hear Mr. Sampson talk about income
- 8 levels. One of the problems in our county as well as
- 9 other counties has been or is that far too many persons
- 10 because of various reasons, historical discrimination,
- 11 the effects of the historical discrimination, lack of
- 12 self motivation, far too many persons have not prepared
- 13 themselves to earn an adequate living.
- And the housing, we have a gross shortage of
- 15 affordable housing in the county. That is a problem.
- 16 Our employment, we still have unemployment, far too much
- 17 unemployment and underemployment. We don't have persons
- 18 moving up the ladder high enough in terms of management
- 19 and supervisory positions. We have a lot of problems in
- 20 consumerism and these are sometimes, now, folks, I'm not
- 21 that good to determine whether or not, I'm not smart

- 1 enough to determine whether or not somebody is doing
- 2 something against a minority because of his or her race
- 3 or because of their background, I'm just not that good.
- 4 But if the problem is bad or wrong we will try to
- 5 address it.
- And lastly, the matter of legal
- 7 representation. Far too many persons are falling
- 8 through the cracks in the sense that they either make
- 9 too much money or for some other reason the legal aid
- 10 bureau won't take them or can't take them, the NAACP
- 11 doesn't have staff lawyers in local communities and they
- don't have money to get another lawyer and they're
- 13 crying for help and they need help. This is also a
- 14 problem, one of the many problems.
- Political action, and I suppose this is
- something that we have to do and we will address all of
- 17 these areas in terms of our positive program NAACP-wise
- is that we don't have enough persons running for office,
- 19 as Mr. Hill indicated. We were very pleased to have
- 20 Mrs. Jackson win election on the town council but we
- 21 plan to do this across the board at the next election.

- 1 And business development business ownership is a gross
- 2 problem in our county or the lack thereof, I should say.
- 3 We have less African American owned businesses in our
- 4 county than we had 50 years ago and let me assure you
- 5 that I'm old enough to remember the businesses 50 years
- 6 ago. And economic development in many of our areas of
- 7 the county is lacking.
- 8 REV. SANDS: You had asked Mr. Wallace. Do
- 9 you want to step up? Do you have anything you want to
- 10 say?
- 11 REV WALLACE: Yes, I do.
- MR. BLACK: That's Reverend Wallace. He's the
- 13 pastor of a church in Cambridge, and a former Somerset
- 14 County.
- MR. DARDEN: Reverend Wallace, for the record
- 16 would you also give an address, contact information for
- 17 you.
- 18 REV. WALLACE: Okay, Post Office Box 275,
- 19 Cambridge, Maryland 21613.
- MR. DARDEN: And Mr. Black, the same?
- MR. BLACK: Post office Box 253, Easton,

- 1 Maryland 21601. Would you like my phone number too?
- 2 MR. DARDEN: Yes, please.
- MR. BLACK: My telephone number is 410,
- 4 822-7601.
- 5 REV. WALLACE: 410, 228-7325.
- 6 MR. DARDEN: We'll give you an opportunity to
- 7 correct any errors in the record so we need to be able
- 8 to contact you.
- 9 REV. WALLACE: One of the issues I would like
- 10 to concern is the issue that Judge Ames raised earlier
- and that was the issue about the empowerment center.
- 12 The empowerment center is the brainchild of a group of
- 13 African Americans. And actually it's a mixed group in
- 14 which they decided that on Pine Street which is
- 15 historically the area of history for the African
- 16 American people in Cambridge decided to put an
- 17 empowerment center in that area. These individuals did
- 18 all the legwork, they wrote the proposal, they went to
- 19 the various agencies, defended the proposal. The
- 20 proposal was approved on its first try, and that's
- 21 unusual, one of the first times it's ever happened. It

- 1 went up the first time, it was approved, it was funded.
- Now that the building is near completion the
- 3 newly elected city administrators are stonewalling.
- 4 They're coming up with a lot of interesting and clever
- 5 ways to deny this group access to the building. I have
- 6 been told by at least two of them that part of the
- 7 reason why they are stonewalling is because they believe
- 8 that if this particular group gets in, and it's more
- 9 directed against one person than the entire group, if
- 10 this particular group gets in that this person would
- 11 champion the cause of reverse discrimination in such
- ways that black folks would then be empowered and would
- 13 be given a sense of power to do something disruptive to
- 14 European Americans.
- That's not the case whatsoever so everything
- 16 is being done to suppress that. The building again is
- 17 near completion, there have been some problems with the
- 18 contractors and subcontractors and whatever but at least
- in my opinion that does not preclude a decision being
- 20 made as to who is to go in. The building was set up
- 21 such that the empowerment center would be the primary

- 1 persons who will be conducting the business there.
- 2 Other agencies are involved and they have space in place
- 3 for other agencies as well.
- 4 One of the things that is very important that
- 5 you need to know is that in the initial proposal funding
- 6 sources where monies were coming from was included in
- 7 the proposal. Now the mayor and council is saying we
- 8 need to see your business plan. We've submitted them a
- 9 business plan trying to go along with the process.
- 10 We've submitted them a business plan and each time we do
- 11 that additional questions arise which delay the process.
- 12 They put us on a time schedule, we met this time
- 13 schedule and it's been, the time frame they gave was
- 14 early March and now we're in June and they still have
- 15 not made a determination as to who is going to be the
- ones who take the leadership of this particular
- 17 building.
- The building is there, it's ready to be
- occupied, for the most part, and yet there's been no
- 20 decision and the threat is, at least our thinking is the
- 21 threat is that if we do not remove a specific person

- 1 from the board of directors that we will not get the
- 2 empowerment center.
- MR. DARDEN: Can I just clarify one thing? I
- 4 thought you said that the person they want to remove is
- 5 the champion of reverse discrimination.
- REV. WALLACE: No, that's their perception
- 7 that this individual wants to use the empowerment center
- 8 to destroy European Americans. In other words, the
- 9 empowerment center is to offer tutorial programs,
- 10 computer learning skills, job enhancement skills, job
- 11 training, whatever, and those kind of things. Their
- 12 thinking is that that stuff will be laid aside and the
- 13 whole program, programatic stuff will be changed such as
- 14 we can talk about how to destroy European Americans.
- MS. GILMORE: Has this been articulated?
- REV. WALLACE: Yes, it has. It's been shared
- 17 with me.
- MS. GILMORE: Has it been shared with anyone
- 19 else?
- 20 REV. WALLACE: The individual, yes.
- MS. GILMORE: And it's specifically linked

- 1 upon this specific individual being involved?
- 2 REV. WALLACE: There are two persons I've
- 3 heard say this.
- 4 MR. DARDEN: I'm trying to understand what
- 5 that means although you probably did try to understand
- 6 too. When they say destroy, you don't mean violence.
- 7 REV. WALLACE: No, propogate hatred against
- 8 white America.
- 9 MR. ODOMS: Reverse segregation, or
- 10 discrimination, that's what he's saying.
- 11 MR. DARDEN: Just to explain why I was a
- 12 little confused when I heard the term reverse
- discrimination used it's in the context of, say, the
- 14 Bakke decision, whites have said that's reverse but
- 15 that's not what you're talking about.
- 16 REV. WALLACE: No, no.
- MS. GILMORE: This is because of empowerment,
- 18 personal empowerment, but everyone would be allowed to
- 19 use the facility.
- 20 REV. WALLACE: Yes, that's part of the
- 21 program, that's part of the package. It's open to the

- 1 entire citizenry of the city Cambridge as well as
- 2 Dorchester County.
- 3 MS. GILMORE: This seems to be a political
- 4 issue. I guess you know that.
- 5 MR. ODOMS: It's more than that. It's racism,
- 6 bottom line. Bottom line, it's more than political.
- 7 REV. WALLACE: Yes.
- REV. SANDS: Whose money is at stake here,
- 9 whose money is at stake in developing the building?
- 10 REV. WALLACE: The money basically came from
- 11 the state. The city threw in some money and I think the
- 12 plause that they're using to do what they're doing is
- 13 there's a phrase in there that lends itself that the
- 14 city should have oversite over, okay, as opposed to and
- 15 the city is using that and running as far as they can go
- 16 with it in order to not just have oversite but to
- 17 control the whole thing that goes in.
- 18 There have been some conversations that
- 19 persons have gone as far as to be in conversations with
- other organizations and promise them space and place
- 21 without consulting with the Pine Street committee who

- 1 are the persons who are responsible for the project.
- 2 MS. PARDO: I'm sorry, so that I understand
- 3 the whole thing, so the Pine Street committee basically
- 4 would be in charge of the empowerment center.
- 5 REV. WALLACE: They are the ones, it's their
- 6 project.
- 7 MS. PARDO: It's their brain child, it's their
- 8 baby.
- 9 REV. WALLACE: Right.
- MS. PARDO: And the Pine Street committee
- 11 members are one hundred percent black?
- 12 REV. WALLACE: No, it's a mixed group.
- MS. PARDO: It's a mixed group?
- 14 REV. WALLACE: It's a mixed group.
- MS. PARDO: Okay.
- 16 REV. WALLACE: It's always been a mixed group
- 17 from day one and one of the persons who is on the
- 18 present city council was always involved in this
- 19 brainchild.
- MR. DARDEN: Let me see if I understand, let's
- 21 try to peel back the layers and get right down to it.

- 1 Are you saying that the opposition to this project is a
- 2 reflection of old fashioned anti-black racism?
- REV. WALLACE: Yes. that's what I'm saying, my
- 4 opinion.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: Right, now, is this attitude then
- 6 coming from the opponents which would be in this case
- 7 the mayor?
- 8 REV. WALLACE: Yes, it's coming from the
- 9 mayor, it's coming from a couple of city council persons
- and their opinion is if you remove this person then I
- 11 will support it, I will support you going into the
- 12 building.
- MR. ODOMS: Is there any type of mechanism we
- 14 have to highlight this, to eliminate this problem or to
- 15 bring it to the heights -- anything that any community
- or anyone can do with the -- isn't there state funds and
- 17 federal funds involved?
- 18 REV. WALLACE: Yes, there are state funds.
- 19 There was some discussion around county funds.
- 20 MR. ODOMS: Isn't there someone from the
- 21 governor's office that's over --

- 1 REV. WALLACE: Supposedly but everyone is, no
- 2 one is touching it, they're just waiting to see what
- 3 happens.
- 4 MR. ODOMS: Maybe there's something that
- 5 Brother Black that we need to --
- 6 REV. WALLACE: This is Dorchester.
- 7 MR. ODOMS: I'm sorry, Dorchester. Judge,
- 8 I'll address this to you then, Judge. Is this something
- 9 maybe perhaps we need to talk about?
- MR. AMES: I think we need to do a little more
- 11 clarification. Reverend Wallace, would you agree that
- 12 some of this resentment is coming because of the past
- 13 political election, the way the election turned out, and
- 14 what would have happened before the election in the city
- 15 of Cambridge.
- MR. ODOMS: So you got racism and politics.
- MR. DARDEN: Can you explain that, what does
- 18 that mean?
- MR. AMES: Okay, the person with the
- 20 empowerment center that was on the city council that
- 21 helped spearhead -- help me if I go astray.

- 1 REV. WALLACE: Okay, I am.
- 2 MR. AMES: The incoming mayor and this person
- 3 had much dialogue during the campaign.
- 4 REV. WALLACE: Arguments not dialogue.
- 5 MR. AMES: I'm dressing it up.
- 6 MR. DARDEN: And what position did this
- 7 person, unnamed, have during the campaign?
- 8 MR. AMES: They were president of the city
- 9 council.
- MR. DARDEN: They were president of the city
- 11 council. The mayor was campaigning for election and
- 12 these two had arguments.
- MR. AMES: They clashed so in my mind I think
- 14 it's political.
- MR. ANDERSON: Retribution.
- MR. AMES: And the person who was president
- 17 lost the seat that one of the council people was asking
- 18 for, it was his buddy.
- 19 REV. WALLACE: Right.
- MR. AMES: So you've got some other dynamics
- 21 at work.

- 1 MR. DARDEN: In addition to racism.
- 2 REV. WALLACE: In addition to racism.
- MR. DARDEN: But racism is still there.
- 4 MR. DARDEN: You can't back off and say this
- 5 is just politics.
- 6 MR. AMES: No, no, it's racism plus political
- 7 retribution.
- 8 MR. DARDEN: All right.
- 9 MR. OKURA: Complicated.
- 10 MS. LEMKE: That notion of fear of black
- 11 empowerment is often used to rally the voters of --
- 12 county so it's almost a play the race card to build
- 13 political support for why they're not doing this because
- 14 from your perspective this center is for everyone.
- MR. AMES: And from day one the people that
- 16 led the charge of the Pine Street committee yesterday
- 17 today and tomorrow were integrated.
- MS. LEMKE: Yes. So the only way the mayor
- 19 can justify why we're not going through this well, you
- 20 don't really know what's going on here, this is not
- 21 really for everyone. It seems like a way to get at a

- 1 political agenda by using something that the voters
- 2 might resonate with and not call him to task on.
- REV. WALLACE: And in addition to that this
- 4 individual is very knowledgeable of city government,
- 5 city administration, and she has called the city and the
- 6 mayor to task on numerous occasions which they found to
- 7 be lacking in their understanding of what's going on and
- 8 I think there's a fear that in the next election that
- 9 she may decide to run and if she runs then that creates
- 10 another set of dynamics for them so what they're doing
- is laying the foundation to destroy her or discredit her
- 12 such that she will not be in a position to run.
- REV. Sands: Has Cambridge ever really healed?
- 14 REV. WALLACE: No, no.
- 15 REV. SANDS: Is Fred Marcus still alive?
- MR. AMES: No, he went to -- he died. But he
- 17 saw the light before he left, he started mellowing out.
- 18 REV. Sands: All right.
- MS. GILMORE: I'd like to know if the mayor's
- 20 argument is getting any credibility or is resonating
- 21 amongst the populous.

- 1 MS. PARDO: Are people seeing through that
- 2 it's something really political there too?
- 3 MS. GILMORE: Or is it still internal within
- 4 Pine Street and the --
- 5 REV. WALLACE: It's still internal.
- 6 MS. GILMORE: Can you see it staying that way
- 7 because if they're political, if they're political
- 8 motives it won't stay internal because otherwise why do
- 9 it.
- 10 REV. WALLACE: Well, what happens is even in
- 11 unrelated situations the mayor, someone brings up this
- 12 individual so there's a continuation of stuff that is
- 13 going on. For example, this is an entirely different
- 14 issue. There was a picture taken of our mayor and the
- 15 cannon and the confederate flag and we raised some
- 16 issues about that and the first thing the mayor said was
- 17 this was the result of a disgruntled former
- 18 councilwoman. She had nothing to do with it.
- MS. GILMORE: Who took the picture?
- 20 REV. WALLACE: Well, who brought it to the
- 21 attention, well, it was in the paper a whole week before

- 1 he ever did anything but once it came out we had a press
- 2 conference concerning it and his opinion was that it was
- 3 this disgruntled former councilwoman who did that and I
- 4 can sit here today and say she had very little to do
- 5 with that. I'm the person that created that stuff, not
- 6 that I'm doing that to champion my cause or anything,
- 7 but I felt it necessary that it needed to be addressed.
- 8 So we had a press conference centered around
- 9 that and the other thing he decided to say that it was
- 10 another person who was on this Pine Street committee, he
- 11 said it was the brainchild of them who did that and this
- 12 person was out of the state, they were in North Carolina
- or South Carolina because of sickness with their son,
- 14 had no awareness of what was going on in the city of
- 15 Cambridge. So between those two he pulls these things
- in together and so here we are.
- MR. DARDEN: Just a followup guestion about
- 18 the confederate stars and bars. Was that photograph,
- 19 and you said it was in the newspapers, was it, did it
- 20 reflect the mayor's -- was the mayor associated with the
- 21 flag as a historical item or as a representation of, you

- 1 know, racism?
- 2 REV. WALLACE: Well, the situation and this
- 3 would help perhaps answer your question, the situation
- 4 was when the Pride of Baltimore II was beginning its
- 5 voyage for the summer tour of whatever, its first port
- of entry was the city of Cambridge and normally as the
- 7 Pride was coming in they did a cannon salute.
- 8 Individuals made the cannon using the specs from the
- 9 Smithsonian Institute in Washington. They made the
- 10 specs. The process I understand is that you go to
- 11 council and ask council for permission to salute the
- 12 Pride of Baltimore, however, they forgot to tell them
- 13 that they were going to do this in confederate uniform
- or have the flag as a part of that salute.
- 15 MR. DARDEN: So the Pride of Baltimore was a
- 16 confederate ship?
- 17 REV. WALLACE: No, no. When the Pride came to
- 18 port the persons who saluted --
- MR. DARDEN: I see.
- 20 REV. WALLACE: -- were dressed in confederate
- 21 uniforms with --

Page 157 1 MR. ODOMS: The confederate flag on the 2 cannon. 3 MR. DARDEN: So the militia that was honoring 4 the ship, the Pride, dressed in confederate uniforms. REV. WALLACE: It was only two persons, two 5 6 persons. 7 MR. AMES: Two person militia. 8 MR. DARDEN: Were they representing Cambridge? 9 REV. WALLACE: No, they were just there as a courtesy. See, they asked the city if they could salute 10 11 and in years passed they had done that, they saluted the 12 Pride but without confederate uniforms. This year they

the day of when the Pride comes in they are in 15 confederate uniforms with the stars and bars on the 16 cannon and from the report the mayor gets there late, is

did not mention the confederate uniforms or the flag so

a tad bit behind schedule, and one of the photographers, 17

18 newspaper persons, takes a picture and there is the

19 mayor and the flag and whatever.

20 MS. GILMORE: Posed or did he just happen to

21 be around there?

13

14

- 1 REV. WALLACE: Well, he is looking at the
- 2 cannon, okay. And it's not a calm day, it is a windy
- 3 day and the flag is --
- 4 MS. GILMORE: Stretched out.
- 5 REV. WALLACE: Exactly.
- 6 MR. DARDEN: Was there any clarification from
- 7 the mayor? I'm assuming that you said you and others
- 8 criticized the photograph?
- 9 REV. WALLACE: Right.
- MR. DARDEN: After that criticism appeared was
- 11 there any clarification from the mayor regarding --
- 12 REV. WALLACE: We have not resolved the issue
- 13 yet. The mayor denies, first of all, seeing it.
- MR. DARDEN: Seeing the photograph.
- 15 REV. WALLACE: Seeing the flag. Secondly, he
- 16 said it was, something else he said that was in my
- opinion equally ridiculous that he didn't see it, he
- 18 didn't notice it.
- MR. DARDEN: Didn't notice it?
- 20 REV. WALLACE: Or something of that nature and
- 21 that he was focusing his attention upon the cannon.

- 1 MR. AMES: The workmanship of the cannon.
- 2 REV. WALLACE: The workmanship of the cannon
- 3 and was in discussions with the persons who made the
- 4 cannon.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: The reason I'm trying to follow
- 6 up here is you said earlier that, at least in your
- 7 opinion, part of the mayor's opposition to the project
- 8 comes from personal racism.
- 9 REV. WALLACE: Right.
- MR. DARDEN: So I'm trying to get some sense
- of whether there is other information that might
- 12 corroborate your perception of any racist attitude of
- 13 his, and, for example, being associated with confederate
- 14 stars and bars not as a historical object but as a
- 15 representation of racist attitudes.
- 16 REV. WALLACE: I can only give you my thoughts
- 17 on that.
- MR. DARDEN: That's all I'm asking.
- 19 REV. WALLACE: And my thoughts on that in
- 20 discussions that I had had with the mayor, the mayor
- 21 seems to play the game of the good nigga, bad nigga to

- 1 use that kind of thing in which he will say to what
- 2 persons that he perceived to be good niggas I can do all
- 3 these kind of things for you and for those of us who he
- 4 perceives to be the bad niggas he constantly is using
- 5 our names to instigate approval of his position and
- 6 denial of the other.
- 7 REV. SANDS: I'm going to let you know we have
- 8 ten more minutes in this panel.
- 9 REV. WALLACE: Among our own folk.
- 10 MS. LEMKE: I have a followup question on the
- 11 stars and bars. Any rationale as to why these
- 12 individuals chose to dress in those uniforms with that
- 13 flag to salute the Pride of Baltimore? It seems
- 14 ahistorical to me for one thing, I mean, that's a
- 15 totally different period of ship so was there any
- 16 rationale on the part of this group or that's just what
- 17 they wanted to do?
- 18 REV. WALLACE: None was given, that's just
- 19 what they wanted to do. In the past it is my
- 20 understanding that when the salute was given it was very
- 21 clearly stated that it would be just a salute, nothing

- 1 else and there would be no dress up or anything.
- 2 MS. LEMKE: Just a very odd pairing, from my
- 3 perspective.
- 4 MS. LEE: How long until your next mayoral
- 5 election?
- 6 REV. WALLACE: He's been in office for a year
- 7 and a half so it's two and a half more years.
- MR. HILL: I'd like to make one comment on how
- 9 important this empowerment activity is because this is
- 10 going to be the foundation from which communities will
- 11 grow. When you have these kinds of activities and it's
- in a predominantly black neighborhood I know there is
- 13 something else going on in Cambridge as well in the
- 14 public housing area where some new owners have bought a
- 15 section of Cambridge and they're doing a whole lot of
- 16 revitalization and they have a philosophy on wellness of
- 17 the family.
- And they intend to use this as a model for the
- 19 nation where they address the whole need of the family,
- 20 of ridding the community of drugs, training the
- 21 children, providing day care, training for the adults

- 1 and those kinds of things. They're going to have a
- 2 building that deals with that very much like the center
- 3 that they're talking about so we don't want to slide on
- 4 how important this activity is because if this happened
- 5 systematically in all nine counties where there is an
- 6 exchange of information, people have an opportunity of
- 7 finding out what are rights are, what their options are
- 8 then over time this will change on the Eastern Shore but
- 9 they're going to need the support of agencies like this
- 10 agency, NAACP, ACLU and the community galvanizing the --
- 11 exchanging information and networking not being afraid
- 12 to talk to one another.
- MR. BLACK: I'd like to, if I might, follow up
- on something in Talbot County of a political nature.
- We, being the local NAACP, have been promoting the
- 16 concept of creating county voting districts in the
- 17 county, countywide voting districts and of course this
- is consistent with the national policy of the NAACP that
- is one of support for single member voting districts.
- We attempted to accomplish this in Talbot
- 21 County but it's very interesting that the Talbot County

- 1 council as a body has voted to oppose this so we will
- 2 continue to work on this and promote it and agitate and
- 3 so forth but I think it does give an indication of a
- 4 posture, the political posture of elected officials in
- 5 the county and supposedly they represent certain
- 6 constituencies to the matter of a process that will
- 7 certainly enhance the diversification of elected
- 8 officials in the county.
- 9 We have never had an elected, a nonwhite
- 10 elected council person in the history of Talbot County
- 11 and there are other reasons. Maybe we didn't run,
- 12 that's one reason, we ran a couple of times, we lost but
- 13 certainly diversification in the political arena is as
- 14 good and necessary and as beneficial as diversification
- in the employment sector, management sector. So we are
- 16 a bit disappointed that the top government in the county
- 17 has taken this position. Thank you.
- 18 REV. WALLACE: If I may add just one more
- 19 piece here. The connection between the flag and the
- 20 empowerment center, after we did the press conference
- 21 concerning the flag one of the council persons shared

- 1 with me that he was in a position to present the
- 2 recommendation that the Pine Street committee would be
- 3 able to get the empowerment center but because of the
- 4 flag issue he decided that he would not do that and he
- 5 could not support it at that particular point.
- 6 REV. SANDS: Well, I want to say thanks but I
- 7 have one more question.
- 8 MR. AMES: Will you please keep that picture
- 9 going around, we need to see it.
- 10 REV. SANDS: Does Dorchester or does Talbot or
- 11 anyone have self government, charter government?
- 12 MR. AMES: We don't.
- 13 MR. BLACK: Yes, Talbot County, Reverend Dan
- 14 Davis is our -- in NAACP he says we do have charter
- 15 government in our county in Talbot.
- 16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We went to charter
- 17 government in '75 and before charter government we did
- 18 elect from our district. When they were in the charter
- 19 government we decided to elect --
- MR. SANDS: That's great, it's usually when
- 21 they go to charter you it's in order.

- 1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And what happens is that
- 2 four of our five commissioners all have the same post
- 3 office, which means that it basically cut off
- 4 concentrations in Easton and that's where they get
- 5 elected from.
- 6 REV. SANDS: You've really lost the purpose of
- 7 charter government.
- 8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If the county counsel is not
- 9 going to do this we're going to try to it put on
- 10 referendum on the 2002 ballot and if it passes then it
- 11 will take effect in 2006.
- 12 REV. Sands: I want to thank you all very
- 13 much.
- MR. DARDEN: Before the panel dismisses, would
- 15 you all sure to sign the petition list and with the
- 16 address. And just to repeat again, for members of
- 17 audience if you haven't already would you sign one of
- 18 those registration forms and give me your contact
- information so we can follow up with you after the
- 20 meeting.
- 21 REV. SANDS: Thank you.

1 (Brief recess.) 2 Good afternoon. Our third session MS. JONES: 3 while we've run over a little bit it was to be from 3:30 to 5:15 and it looks as if everyone is here so if your 4 5 name is on the list would you please come and take a 6 The way that we will proceed everyone will have 7 an opportunity to speak for at least two to five minutes 8 and then we'll go back and entertain questions and 9 comments. If you would, please, though, introduce yourself, who you're representing, if you're 10 11 representing a group, and the name of your county. 12 then we will begin with the first person on our list, Ronald Molock, so we can begin with the introductions 13 14 please. 15 My names is James DiBuo, MR. DiBOU: 16 the Autistic Children's Support Group from Worcester 17 County located in Bishopville, Maryland and we try to 18 assist parents of autistic children. Basically we 19 consult with their educational needs, the things that 20 they need to do to help their children get a proper

education in Worcester County for the autistic children.

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- 1 MR. MOLOCK: My name is Ronald Molock and I'm
- 2 vice president, first vice president of Wicomico County
- 3 NAACP.
- 4 MS. HUDSON: I'm Hermetta Hudson, I'm
- 5 president of the Worcester County NAACP.
- 6 MR. BALLARD: Good evening. My name is
- 7 Kenneth Ballard from Princess Anne. I am the president
- 8 of Somerset County NAACP.
- 9 MR. LAWRENCE: My name is Wannamaker Lawrence
- 10 and I'm acting executive director of the Pocomoke
- 11 Self-Help Program Incorporated.
- MS. JONES: All right, we'll proceed and we'll
- 13 follow the order that's on our agenda, please.
- MR. MOLOCK: I quess that's me.
- MS. JONES: That's you.
- MR. MOLOCK: Well, I am the legal redress
- 17 person for the Wicomico County NAACP and I'm on call 24
- 18 hours a day, 7 days a week and I just jotted down some
- 19 topics. First one is the Salisbury city police. Now, I
- 20 don't know whether you-all knew it but the mayor was
- 21 setting back there a while ago.

- 1 Did he sign in? MR. DARDEN: MR. MOLOCK: She signed in. 2 3 MR. DARDEN: Did she sign in? MR. MOLOCK: She signed in. 4 5 MR. DARDEN: Did she hear about what I said about not inviting the public officials? 6 7 No, she came in just after that. MR. MOLOCK: MR. DARDEN: Good. 8 9 MR. MOLOCK: Because she tapped me on my shoulder and you had just said that and but for the 10 11 last, I would say, two years we've been trying to start 12 a citizen review board with subpoena power and she has 13 been definitely against that. The chief of police which 14 we would meet once a month with is definitely against 15 it, he sees no need. And out of our meetings that we 16 had with them what we do have is a citizen policing and 17 community relations committee started. 18 And at one time we didn't have no complaint
- And at one time we didn't have no complaint
 process. And what we did they had one but you had to go
 to the police department, talk to the officer, and he
 would say why do you want to do this against, nine times

- 1 out of ten it might be against him, so you didn't get
- 2 too far.
- 3 So we hassled around, hassled around and we
- 4 finally got them to put it in the police department
- 5 investigations -- put it in a box and put instructions
- 6 around it so that people that didn't know exactly how to
- 7 fill it out would know how to fill it out and then turn
- 8 it back in or they could turn it in to one of us.
- And well, we thought we had a done deal, then
- 10 the mayor got into it and brought it up here in the hall
- and I said well, at least we says to her black people
- 12 that needs it do not come up here to this office,
- they're needed down there at the jail, that's where they
- 14 go at and that's most of time when they does something
- 15 that's where they go at so they moved it back there and
- 16 last time I looked that's what was still there.
- 17 And I'm also on the Wicomico County sheriff's
- 18 advisory board and I'm in the process of getting them to
- 19 have a complaint form which they did not have and I
- 20 asked the chief, I said why and he said because nobody
- 21 complains. I said well people is not complaining if

- 1 they don't know where to go at. So he told me he would
- 2 give them to the deputies. I said that's not going to
- 3 work because the deputies are not going to do something
- 4 if their name is on the complaint form.
- 5 So that's what we are up against as far as the
- 6 police go. And on the laws, county laws and I think
- 7 they are very discriminatory because I had, my nephew
- 8 was building a house and every time he went to the
- 9 zoning board or somewhere to get a building permit or
- 10 get the ground permit and septic system he was told that
- 11 that area wasn't pertinent so the other building
- 12 contractor told him that he would go down and tell him
- 13 that he was interested in buying the land, all of a
- 14 sudden the works. And if that's not discriminatory or
- 15 discrimination I don't know what is.
- As long as a white is on it it works now and
- 17 this is all over the county. I know down in Nanticoke
- 18 which is on the water, Tipton which is on the water,
- 19 that the blacks down there cannot put another sepsis
- 20 system in unless it's a mount system which costs a great
- 21 amount of money. But now if it's a white person he can

- 1 put a system, everything is okay. So I mean this is the
- 2 things that I would like for you-all to hear.
- 3 And not only down -- our prison, which is in
- 4 the jail, and the civil rights commission was down here
- 5 not too long ago investigating Wicomico County jail.
- 6 Now I don't know what the findings were but they was
- 7 down there and they got a new warden down there and he's
- 8 done changed up all the rules. Because before I could
- 9 go in as an NAACP representative, it's like the priest
- 10 or the lawyer, now I got to do just like a regular
- 11 prisoner almost because I got to go in the hold and do
- 12 this and do that and the employment picture there is
- 13 terrible because people are afraid that they will get
- 14 fired if they speak out.
- 15 If they make any kind of derogatory remark
- 16 against the system they looking to get -- because I know
- one young man that called me and he made a statement, it
- was a program on television, he said that he didn't know
- 19 the KKK, they were as prevalent as they were and he made
- 20 it to one of the prisoners and they fired him because he
- 21 was talking to a prisoner about a subject that could

- 1 start a riot.
- Now, I don't know how. That was the statement
- 3 that he made but I know he was out of a job. And I will
- 4 be here at 6 because I got two people that are coming in
- 5 and I want you to listen at their story with the justice
- 6 system from the police officer down to the arresting
- 7 officer, state's attorney, all the way up and I think it
- 8 was open your eyes to just what's going on around here.
- And the school system, I've been to every
- 10 school in Wicomico County and I found that the trend is
- 11 to get the bright black males, young black males, and I
- 12 had told different ones I had said well, the ones that's
- 13 mediocre that nine times out of ten they got them in the
- 14 system anyway, they're going to have them in the system,
- but it's the bright young males that they are targeting
- and with special education and all that.
- 17 I'll give you an example I had one case where
- 18 the young man's mother called me and says said that
- 19 they, her student was 9 years old, straight A student,
- 20 and they said that him and four more other boys had beat
- 21 this white kid. So I said well, first you set up a

- 1 meeting between the superintendent, principal, the
- 2 guidance counselor and the teachers. So we set the
- 3 meeting up and we went there but all they was focusing
- 4 on was the 9-year-old that was the straight A kid. The
- 5 other four boys wasn't called, wasn't said nothing to
- 6 and they was supposed to be equally involved as I
- 7 thought.
- And well, when they read the report -- let me
- 9 back up. Another thing they got here in Wicomico County
- 10 they got deputy sheriffs in the school in the elementary
- 11 school and the law states that you're not supposed to
- 12 question a kid until the parent or guardian is there.
- 13 They don't adhere to none of that. As soon as things
- 14 happen they question the kid. Now you got a 9-year-old
- 15 kid, he sees a person in authority you say anything.
- Well, this particular kid his mother came and
- 17 they read the report, what the officers wrote, and so I
- 18 asked was the kid dirty, no. Did he have any bruises,
- 19 no. Was his clothes torn, no. So I said well you can't
- 20 very well go and say that it was four boys or five boys
- 21 kicking and stomping the way them kids' shoes are now,

- 1 feet bigger than mine, it's going to leave some bruises,
- 2 marks or something and his clothes are going to be dirty
- 3 if he's on the ground but none of this happened.
- 4 So the school says they was just dropping the
- 5 kid there and about two weeks later the mother called me
- 6 again crying. She had a letter stating she had to come
- 7 to the children's services. The white kid had filed
- 8 assault charges again her son so I told her to call the
- 9 people and tell them that I would attend the meeting
- 10 with her.
- So when we got there to the children's service
- 12 she was a lady asked me who I was, what was my point and
- 13 I told her I was there as an advisor, in the capacity of
- 14 advisor. She didn't think too much of that but she let
- 15 me sit in there. So when she started the first thing
- 16 she asked the little kid was was it parent-teacher day
- and the kid says no. And she said you're sure it wasn't
- 18 parent teacher day and the kid said no.
- Then she started reading the letter or the
- 20 report, as you say. And the first thing that came out
- 21 her mouth was that five white parents saw the four or

- 1 five black kids beating and kicking this little white
- 2 boy. So I asked her what report was she reading because
- 3 I said the report that the sheriff's office sent over
- 4 and the report that the school said didn't mention no
- 5 parents, now where did yours come from. And she said
- 6 well, that's what they wrote, and I said let me see it
- 7 but she wouldn't let me see it.
- And so after she finished I told her, well,
- 9 I'll tell you what, now, they filed charges, assault
- 10 charges against the little black kid we was going to
- 11 file charges against the little white kid which carries
- 12 just as much weight because he called the kid a nigger.
- 13 And when I said that she just forget it, we're going to
- 14 put them both in two hours of anger management and case
- 15 dismissed.
- And that's why I was saying I have quite a few
- 17 cases like this where the bright black kids are
- 18 railroaded and the parents does not know it and the
- other parents was saying that we need more education of
- 20 the parents when it comes to the school situations
- 21 because I mean these kids are getting really railroaded

- 1 and once I do know that there's a two-party justice
- 2 system, one for the white kids and one for the black
- 3 kids.
- 4 Now, just last week I got a call from these
- 5 black parents. The young man who is 18 years old, he
- 6 has white friends, and they was at this party and the
- 7 cops raid the party, the white kids went home, called
- 8 their parents, locked him up, handcuffed him, carried
- 9 him to jail in front of his friends. But now the white
- 10 kids, they was sent home, the parents were called and
- 11 they were sent home so that's why I said there's the
- 12 two-party justice system, one for the whites, just all
- depends on who you are, whose child you are. Whether
- 14 you, like the other panelist was saying it's your arrest
- 15 record, after a year it's taken off, if you don't do
- 16 nothing for a year it's taken off but now the black kids
- 17 are never given that opportunity to take it off. And I
- 18 could go on but I'll give --
- MS. JONES: Thank you for your comments.
- MR. MOLOCK: Okay.
- MR. BALLARD: Again, my name is Ken Ballard

- 1 and I represent Somerset County and of course when you
- 2 cross the Bay Bridge all those similarities are very
- 3 much the same, especially in the justice system. Let me
- 4 give you a couple of examples that have happened in
- 5 Somerset County that I think was very unfair.
- And before I even mention it I want to let you
- 7 know that and I'm bitterly against drugs, I think drugs
- 8 have really destroyed all the families, not only the
- 9 black families, the Spanish families and the white
- 10 families so I'm bitterly against drugs altogether but I
- 11 am for a fair justice system.
- 12 If three kids on the street are hustling drugs
- and there's one Spanish kid, there's one white kid and
- 14 there's one black kid when the cops pick them up and
- 15 carry them to jail and set their bond, okay -- let me
- 16 explain something else to you. There's very few blacks
- or Hispanics on the Eastern Shore that can come up with
- 18 a 60- or 70- or \$80,000 bond, very few, very, very few.
- 19 So they set their bonds beyond what the
- 20 parents can afford to get them out, again let me
- 21 emphasize that I'm bitterly against drugs but I want a

- 1 fair justice system, you know. The Caucasian kid's bond
- 2 would be set at 35- or 40,000 so before you get home the
- 3 Caucasian kid is out, the little Spanish kid is still in
- 4 jail and the black kid is in jail because they cannot
- 5 afford the bond.
- 6 So that's one of the two-part justice system
- 7 that the people that I represent in Somerset County is
- 8 very concerned with. Another is the conditions in the
- 9 jails in Somerset County. Let's talk about the
- 10 employment in there first. We had an incident that
- 11 happened a couple of months ago, a gentleman that lived
- in Crisfield had been working for the Somerset County
- 13 jail for 15 or 20 years. A new Caucasian kid was hired
- 14 in the jail and they moved the black gentleman that had
- 15 been working with the system for 19 years, moved him to
- 16 a night shift position and according to their standard
- 17 there is priority, as much time as you have you have the
- 18 selective shifts.
- 19 Of course when we selected someone to go down
- 20 to the commissioner's office along with him and they
- 21 found the results and when they found out that he had

- 1 support back of him they all backed out but if there
- 2 hadn't been someone there the procedure would have
- 3 followed through so these are the type things that
- 4 really concern us there.
- 5 Of course, now right now we are in the process
- 6 of presenting plans for redistricting for the county
- 7 commissioner's office. We don't have any black
- 8 commissioner at all in Somerset County so really we
- 9 don't have any representation in county government at
- 10 all and you can tell by going to the county government
- offices, right, you can go into the dumps and find
- 12 blacks working in the dumps but if you go into the
- office you can't find any minorities or Hispanics
- 14 because Hispanics, I think, are in worse condition than
- 15 the blacks are in Somerset County right now and it's
- 16 because they have no representation there.
- We're planning to pull together with Hispanics
- and say come on and join the NAACP with us let us all
- 19 fight this battle together because they have no one to
- 20 fight their battles for them so I'm sort of speaking for
- 21 them as a minority along with the blacks in the county.

1 At the same time when you go and talk to the county administrator and the first thing he'll tell you 2 3 about -- the commissioner is actually one that votes on hiring. When I speak to the commissioners, who are you 4 referring to, two days later he's got a job. You follow 5 me what I'm saying? Unless he has some outside input 6 7 you can forget about it, you know. And I think this is happening throughout the shore and it just has to be 8 brought into the light and of course he mentions things 9 about education and I'm not going to hold up -- there's 10 quite a few other things that I'd like to sit down and 11 12 discuss it with you but I'm going to give members of the 13 board an opportunity to discuss theirs. Thank you very 14 much for listening to my plea and my cry. 15 MS. HUDSON: I'm Hermetta Hudson. 16 president of the Worcester NAACP. Let me just talk about concerns about homes in Worcester County and by 17 18 that we have three to four families living in a single 19 family home because they can't afford the rental rate or to own their own home and it's because the employment 20 21 opportunities are primarily seasonal in Worcester County

- 1 and those opportunities are dwindling because a lot of
- 2 the employees are coming from overseas to work in the
- 3 seasonal positions now.
- So we have a lot of people who just don't have
- 5 a way to afford decent housing. And impact that with
- 6 the education in this area and it's like where do they
- 7 get their job skills, the training is not there. And
- 8 that's our primary concern. Of course, we piggyback on
- 9 the judicial issues about being arrested if you're a
- 10 person of color. You don't get that advisement and
- 11 coaching through. You're caught up, you're shipped off
- 12 and then your parents sometimes don't find out about it
- 13 until after you're gone and they have to find out where
- 14 you are.
- 15 So those are some of the incidents that have
- been brought to my attention but people won't put it in
- 17 writing. They'll tell you about it but they're scared
- of the repercussions so they won't put it in writing, we
- 19 have to go by word of mouth. And I guess a new issue
- 20 that's come into place, I don't know if you recall
- 21 environmental discrimination, and by that I mean the

- 1 large developers buying land and wanting to build up
- 2 across from a minority population across the street and
- 3 then they want to put the sludge and the landfills
- 4 across the street.
- 5 Oh sure, we'll take care of the hot water and
- 6 hook up just for those that are in there but suppose 35
- 7 percent of your grounds are not built up because people
- 8 can't afford to build right now so if you want to come
- 9 in later on that's \$80 a foot to hook up so those are
- 10 the issues that are hot topics in Worcester County.
- MS. JONES: Thank you.
- MR. DARDEN: Just a moment.
- MR. LAWRENCE: My name is Wanamaker Lawrence
- 14 and I'm with the Pocomoke Self-Help Program,
- 15 Incorporated, a nonprofit organization in Wocester
- 16 County. We're based out of Pocomoke, Maryland and what
- 17 we did ten years ago we started with scratch and we just
- 18 said what is the problem and how to fix it. What we did
- we analyzed every problem in the community and then we
- 20 went to the federal government to get our 501(c)3 and we
- 21 had them in four areas, one in education, one in

- 1 scientific, one in religion and one in charity.
- Now, so our mission is to provide economic
- 3 development for the local community through education
- 4 and improvement. We have four sub-missions. One of
- 5 them is education which Miss Hudson talked about going
- 6 back to a community based educational program. We
- 7 already have set up computer labs where we want to get
- 8 the kids working on both hardware and software
- 9 applications, we have a restaurant there that the kids
- 10 can run. On scientific we will provide technological
- 11 training to disadvantaged youth and establish a
- 12 community network. We've already started working on
- 13 that. And we went to the federal government, we had to
- 14 get a exemption to religion. We found we had to
- 15 communicate with the churches. This was in a small town
- only 5,000 people -- 26 churches so what we had to do
- 17 was to communicate with the churches and to provide
- 18 basic religion. Young boys are growing up now, they
- don't know what a man is supposed to do, girls the same
- 20 way so nobody has the role of responsibility so without
- 21 leadership or authority how could you understand without

- 1 knowing you need it. We have the charitable exemption
- 2 too to provide fundraising, education and scientific
- 3 solutions to charity.
- 4 Now, the program objectives are to encourage
- 5 employment and improve adult and youth education and
- 6 bring the community together to provide information to
- 7 the local community through centralized workshops.
- Now, the problem with youth today is not the
- 9 youth, it's these problems have been around for hundreds
- 10 and hundreds of years, you're dealing with historical
- 11 information here. If we change the behavior of the
- 12 adults the youth automatically are going to get in line.
- 13 The problem is they're getting led by the adults, and to
- 14 change adult behaviors is almost impossible.
- Now, what are the community problems, these
- 16 are normal people on drugs, recreation for the youth,
- 17 housing, teaching people a trade or a value to the
- 18 community. If a child begins to learn when they're real
- 19 small a trade, plumbing, electrical and things of that
- 20 nature these kids can take care of themselves, improve
- 21 education, community participation, homeowners, day

- 1 care, now, it's ranging about 60 dollars or a higher
- 2 rate for one child to be kept in day care. Also support
- 3 for the elderly, teenage pregnancy, citizen programs to
- 4 help with heat, food, clothing and shelter. Also the
- 5 African American males, we are losing a large percentage
- 6 of African American of males which is incarcerated
- 7 today.
- Now, that segment of the population we started
- 9 work, our education presentation started out back in
- 10 '93, I believe. We met with the Pocomoke ministers
- 11 alliance, talked with them, Pocomoke city counsel, local
- 12 citizens and also congressman Wayne Gilchrist's office
- which they would support. The problem we're having now
- 14 is how do we bring people to the table to talk about,
- 15 hey, we can fix these problems ourselves. Work on that
- 16 because it's not something that people normally do, they
- 17 look for someone else to solve the problem, we're
- 18 looking at our neighbor to solve the problems. Okay,
- 19 analysis. The 60 organizations in Pocomoke, the
- 20 breakdown is 34 churches, 26 civic organizations. They
- 21 were 85 nonprofit organizations providing services in

- 1 Worcester County. We had 21 per township. The total in
- 2 Worcester County we had 81 organizations in place.
- Now what are the barriers to the problem? We
- 4 identified the barriers, the historical barriers that
- 5 have been around, religion and also race and which we
- 6 talked about here today, race. Okay, this one question
- 7 that I want to bring up is that the research that we've
- 8 done shows that how can people accept different --
- 9 people and different cultures in their home as part of
- 10 the family. It's normal. But when they accept
- 11 different people of different color then we got a
- 12 problem. Okay, what we're dealing with here we're
- 13 dealing with hate. Once we understand why racism is
- 14 then we can come to the table and we can talk and we'll
- 15 be able to solve some of these problems.
- Okay, law of diminishing return, okay. Right
- 17 now the community does not have a standard in place,
- 18 there is no standard to measure what is right and wrong.
- 19 Without a standard being in place we don't have values.
- 20 How are we going to have values without standards,
- 21 that's where we are with that.

Community bank. If you put drugs into your 1 society increase the police force, you pay for that, we 2 got all the crime associated with it, look at what it 3 costs the society for drugs. It's a society problem. 4 Now, if you teach the youth a trade or a value to the 5 6 community that can be a plus to your society. 7 Okay, now, recreation for the youth, housing, 8 day care, encourage people to become employed they can 9 put money back into the tax base so every negative thing 10 you put in society you take away from the whole society. 11 What have we done, we have completed community 1.2 research, we have established a nonprofit organization we developed policies for. We have established, we 13 acquired office space, the city gave us an office in the 14 15 police department, we have established communication link for local county issues, we established fundraising 16 17 projects for establishing a boy's and girl's club, we 18 have access to eight acres of land ready to be farmed, 19 bicycle shop for the boys and girls club and also 20 recruited educators, builders and computer experts.

We've developed strategies for program operation

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- 1 tactics.
- Now, that brings us back to a standard, I want
- 3 to just pass some of these out to the board, okay. If
- 4 you turn to page two you'll see that's all what I talked
- 5 about with regard to problems. Look at the first
- 6 things. And we determined that the barriers to the
- 7 problems with race and religion, they have been around
- 8 for hundreds and hundreds of years.
- 9 If you turn to page four you'll see what I'm
- 10 talking about, every problem that we have in society is
- 11 due to a learned behavior. We've got seven points of
- 12 learning, parents are the first, education system,
- 13 community, the media, local county, state and federal
- 14 government pass laws. Of one these can cause the
- 15 problems in society. Every problem we have is caused by
- one, of without a standard being in place to measure
- 17 right from wrong. When we look at every problem that we
- 18 have it's linked to the standard to how we've been
- 19 educated.
- When you look at page five we can see the
- 21 basis of the nation when it started out, five key

- 1 elements that the nation had. This nation had man as
- 2 the head, they had discipline in the schools and the
- 3 parents supported it. Mind you, we didn't have any nice
- 4 buildings that we have today, these is horseback days.
- 5 We had children went to school and were disciplined
- 6 there in the school and the parents supported it, so
- 7 those are the basic principles that this nation agreed
- 8 on. But when civil rights started these are the basic
- 9 principles that they had to measure to whether injustice
- 10 was being done. But now if you look at today we say
- 11 abortion is all right, laws get involved, you're -- no
- 12 prayer so what we started out with you see that they
- 13 changed 180 degrees.
- Now, the standard that is around we just
- 15 listed in the back, you can go over that on your own
- 16 time to look at that standard. That was the standard
- 17 that the nation upheld many years ago. Now, I'd like to
- 18 pass out these, this would make the conclusion, this
- 19 one.
- Okay, about the families. Right now something
- 21 like 29 percent of black minority families are married

- 1 today and that's a benefit of the marriage contract we
- 2 found out nobody had. Okay, people getting married go
- 3 to the courthouse and get the license but what is that
- 4 requirement, what is that contract. But see, what we're
- 5 finding out there is no contract so it's okay to get --
- 6 so what I'm saying that if I go to get a license to go
- 7 get a car they make sure I know how to drive that, I can
- 8 drive that car, I got to take a test. If I go to take
- 9 the bar exam I have to take a test knowing. With
- 10 marriage there is no standards so this is not allowed
- 11 into the judiciary system. How can these people judge a
- 12 divorce without contract, this is where we are. Okay,
- 13 now, so that's it, that's all I have. Any questions?
- MS. JONES: Thank you. I would ask that of
- 15 all of you, do you have any questions or comments that
- 16 you want to share with each other or with us? We'll do
- 17 that after you.
- MR. DiBUO: I would just like to thank the
- 19 chairman and everybody for coming down there and taking
- 20 their weekend and Saturday to come down and listen to
- 21 all the problems that we have. What I'm going to talk

- 1 about is I want to read this to you first and then I'll
- 2 go through some other points. Worcester County
- 3 government agency have a long history of practicing
- 4 discrimination, Worcester County public schools were the
- 5 last to integrate. They did not want to give black
- 6 people the same rights that the white people enjoyed.
- 7 It is sad that I have to bring this subject up as a
- 8 reminder of our history.
- 9 But Worcester County schools have found
- 10 another group of people to discriminate against, these
- 11 new groups of people are of all races and ethnic
- 12 backgrounds, they are children with mental and physical
- 13 disabilities.
- Worcester County public school officials
- 15 practice systematic discrimination regarding special
- 16 education children. Children are denied extended school
- 17 year services regardless of their disabilities. Over 20
- 18 families have contacted us about civil rights violations
- 19 with regard to children's education. We personally have
- 20 had to spend over \$70,000 investigating civil rights
- 21 violations with our autistic son.

- 1 We filed state and federal law, we went before
- 2 an administrative hearing judge. This judge found that
- 3 Worcester County officials did indeed break state and
- 4 federal laws. This judge gave no consequences to
- 5 Worcester County so nothing has changed.
- 6 They continue to do their forefathers proud by
- 7 continuing the discrimination started years ago.
- 8 Worcester County schools do not hire trained teachers
- 9 and therapists needed to educate disabled children and
- 10 what I should have said there was they won't hire any
- 11 now, there are some trained and some very good teachers
- 12 and therapists.
- They keep using lack of funds as an excuse to
- 14 discriminate against disabled children. There may be
- some truth to that but federal and state laws are there.
- 16 If I don't pay my taxes for my house guess what, they'll
- 17 sell my house and take everything away from me. But the
- 18 superintendent of schools and the superintendent of
- 19 special education of Worcester County has no
- 20 consequences of any kind, they can do whatever they
- 21 want. Worcester County schools spend money allocating

- 1 computers, new schools where it needs to be done but do
- 2 not take seriously funding of proper education for
- 3 these disabled children.
- Worcester County did have \$49,321.61 to pay
- 5 their lawyer, Reese Pardi [phonetic] out of Annapolis,
- 6 to defend themselves in court instead of doing the right
- 7 thing with my son. Even though Worcester County tries
- 8 to give proper services to children they do not take
- 9 their responsibility seriously.
- Our son has had many required therapies missed
- 11 by school therapists during school. This valuable time
- 12 is lost forever with an autistic child and I have
- information in here to prove that. All doctors,
- 14 therapists and educational consultants recommend
- 15 intensive therapy for autistic children. Worcester
- 16 County ignores us, they do not care. Teachers are
- 17 afraid to speak out against the administration. They
- are really afraid for their jobs. They will not do the
- 19 right thing in these IEP meetings. I've experienced it
- 20 many times and many other parents have told me the same
- 21 thing.

1 One reason they can continue to practice discrimination is that they know it takes a lot of money 2 3 to take them to court and most families cannot afford 4 this avenue. As this gentleman over here said earlier, 5 there are a lot of poor families on this Eastern Shore 6 and what's sad is my son right now is getting probably 7 the best care of anybody because God has blessed our 8 family with money and he is in a class this summer all 9 by himself. He had nine children in his class during 10 the regular school year. Wouldn't you think that maybe one of those nine children black and white would have 11 12 qualified for that class this summer? Nobody is in it. 13 My wife took him to school the other day, he's the only 14 child in class. He has a special ed teacher for 15 himself. You know why, because I'm taking them to 16 federal district court to sue them. That is the only 17 reason why my son is getting it. The other children are 18 not getting these services and it's not right, it's not 19 fair. I'm thankful that my child is but it's still not 20 right that these other children are being ignored and 21 kicked out.

- 1 So you know what it is is most of these
- 2 families are afraid to defend their child's civil rights
- 3 because they're afraid to bite the hand that feeds them.
- 4 They're so thankful to get the little bit of services
- 5 that they get and what it is the intimidation factor is
- 6 so great from these administrators that they'll tell you
- 7 right away they're going to a hearing as they did with
- 8 my family.
- 9 They didn't realize I had the money to go to a
- 10 hearing. I had the 25 grand to spend on a hearing. I
- 11 didn't like it but I did it because I wasn't going to be
- 12 bullied around by John Amies [phonetic] who was also the
- 13 superintendent of the year in Worcester County and
- 14 Mr. Edward Carrab [phonetic] who is in charge of special
- 15 ed. What they do is they threaten these parents,
- 16 especially poor families, fine, you can go to court
- 17 against us, guess what, you have to pay a lawyer. You
- 18 can go without one but your chances of winning are zero.
- 19 It's just like a regular judicial hearing, I mean, you
- 20 have to bring a lawyer. Only a fool goes to court
- 21 without a lawyer and these families don't have \$25,000

- 1 to go court as we did.
- 2 My son is fortunate, we're able to pay for the
- 3 extra services, pay Easter Seals, which costs us 1300 a
- 4 month because they're not giving the proper services.
- 5 We're able to have a lawyer, one of the best lawyers
- 6 probably in the country on educational law, Mr. Steven
- 7 out of Baltimore who defends my son. We're very lucky,
- 8 we're blessed but what about the other families in
- 9 Worcester County, what about them? Why is that it only
- 10 my son gets it because I'm willing to spend 70- or
- 11 \$80,000 a year to get it, something is wrong. There is
- 12 a scam going on there for many, many years.
- I just got a few more things to say.
- 14 Worcester County school board members, here is the
- 15 arrogancy of the president of the school board,
- 16 Mr. Norstrom [phonetic]. He made this comment in a
- 17 public hearing last fall and this I quote, this was in
- 18 the papers, I was at the meeting so I'm not making this
- 19 up. "I cannot justify cancelling a calculus class to
- 20 put another person on in special education. My
- 21 constituents, he wasn't even voted in, he was appointed

- 1 by the governor -- if I cancelled classes that help
- 2 their children get into Cornell, military academies,
- 3 Virginia Tech or the University of Maryland for special
- 4 education."
- 5 This was said in a public meeting by the
- 6 president of Worcester County school board. This type
- 7 of attitude, also nobody asked him to cancel any classes
- 8 for special ed. I have five children. I have four
- 9 children who have regular needs. I don't want them to
- 10 be denied for my other son but everybody should be
- 11 entitled to a fair and appropriate education. This type
- of attitude is prevalent among many Worcester County
- 13 school officials. With this type of attitude
- 14 discrimination against children will continue in
- 15 Worcester County, they continue their proud tradition of
- 16 discrimination started many years ago.
- I don't have just accusations either. My
- 18 things are all fact and I just found out about this
- 19 meeting the other day so I didn't get time, I talked to
- 20 Mr. Darden and he allowed me to be on this panel and I
- 21 really appreciate it so I wasn't able to get copies for

- 1 everybody but I do have this that I want to give to
- 2 Mr. Darden, if he could make sure that everybody gets a
- 3 copy and I have just a couple of things to show you real
- 4 quick with regards to the violations, the things that
- 5 they do in this county.
- I received -- we tried to get in court a list
- 7 of the students, special ed students, that received
- 8 summer services. They denied us that information. The
- 9 information was -- they did have the information, they
- 10 said it didn't exist. They lawyer lied in court, we
- 11 have that in the transcripts. He pulled a fraud on the
- 12 court is what he did. And we did receive, our court
- case was 12-8-00, last year, 12-1-00 this came from the
- 14 Maryland board of education it shows the information we
- 15 requested was available and was not given to us by the
- school board which was required by the law to be given
- 17 to us when we exchanged information for the hearing on
- 18 our court case.
- To show you about the Eastern Shore special ed
- 20 services in the summer Worcester County had zero kids,
- 21 Wicomico County had 14, Talbot County had 0, Somerset 0,

- 1 Queen Anne's 0, Dorchester 2, Caroline County 1. You go
- 2 across the bay Alleghany had 30, Anne Arundel 325,
- 3 Baltimore City 48, Frederick County 296, Howard County
- 4 463, Montgomery 1500, Prince George's 1200, St. Mary's
- 5 112, Washington, which is a small county, 364.
- 6 There's a pattern and practice of
- 7 discrimination on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. And
- 8 these papers will prove beyond a doubt and I've spent
- 9 \$70,000 to put this together. Basically I have a little
- 10 thing here that explains some of the stuff in here. We
- 11 went to court and in court just to show you what
- 12 Worcester County does, they have a template for all
- 13 their teachers so that when the teacher at the end of
- 14 the year puts together an IP for special education
- 15 students, IP is individual education program, that every
- 16 child is entitled to that gets special ed and they have
- 17 a computer program which is great to help them put it
- 18 together so they don't have hand write it but if you go
- 19 through this template, I got a copy of the template that
- 20 the teachers use, if you go through here you'll see
- 21 there's choices for every option that can be done for

- 1 these children, A or B choices, all throughout this
- 2 template in their computer.
- 3 Then when you get to the part where it talks
- 4 about special education extended school year services
- 5 for the summer for these children here's what you get,
- 6 there is no A or B choice. It's highlighted, bold
- 7 faced in their computer. The team consider all
- 8 necessary factors and determine that a student does not
- 9 require extended school year services to receive some
- 10 benefit from the education program during the regular
- 11 school year. There is no choice. But of course the
- 12 teachers say well, we can override that but why did you
- 13 have A or B choices for everything else in here, you
- 14 know. It's amazing.
- The judge did rule in our hearing that they
- 16 broke two IDE laws, Individual Disabilities Education
- 17 Act, there was no consequences of any kind. We did not
- 18 get reimbursed for our fees which all we were asking for
- 19 was our lawyer fees and the money we spent during the
- 20 summer for Easter Seals that Mark should have been
- 21 entitled to through the school district, we didn't get

- 1 any of that back. And I didn't even care about the
- 2 money. If she just would have went in there and said
- 3 okay, Worcester County you're going to do this now,
- 4 you're going to change the way you're doing things and
- 5 you're going to give these children a chance at extended
- 6 school years services if they're required, if they're
- 7 needed and she didn't do anything, there was no
- 8 consequence of any kind, nothing.
- 9 I put some transcripts of the case, I put
- 10 copies of her ruling in here. We just now filed another
- 11 complaint, we're going to federal court sometime this
- 12 year, we're going to federal district court. We took it
- 13 out of the state level, we passed the state level up
- 14 because we didn't trust the state. I really don't trust
- 15 them because this hearing judge is paid by the state,
- some of her money comes from the department of education
- 17 so what kind of fair trial could I get. We did not get
- 18 a fair trial, that's a bunch of crap.
- So we're going to the federal level, hopefully
- 20 the people at the federal level will look at this in a
- 21 very objective way, we're hoping, we pray they do, we'll

- 1 see what happens.
- We just had a meeting the other day with
- 3 Mr. Hammerbacher [phonetic] who is head of special
- 4 education and just to show you their attitude we asked
- 5 him, I'll just give you a little bit of a transcript
- 6 that came from that meeting. This is my lawyer talking
- 7 to Mr. Hammerbacher of the IEP team. Mr. Steven, my
- 8 lawyer, he says, please. Mr. Hammerbacher, first of all
- 9 says we have responsibility to apply this criteria
- 10 fairly to all 700 plus disabled children. And what we
- 11 we're talking about is we were getting on him about not,
- 12 why did nobody receive services in Worcester County, not
- one. So my lawyer says please do because I know you
- 14 didn't give anybody extended school year services last
- 15 year last so I can tell you applied it fairly to
- 16 everybody last year, I'm sorry.
- 17 Mr. Hammerbacher says I have a responsibility
- 18 to ensure that we apply this criteria to all of those
- 19 children, we have done that. Mr. Steven, my lawyer, how
- 20 is it that no one in this county ever qualified for
- 21 extended school year services last year? Mr. Bennett, I

- 1 thought we were talking about Mark. Mr. Steven, he
- 2 didn't qualify either. And we had another applicant
- 3 with us, she says and neither did my children, she has
- 4 two autistic children.
- 5 Mr. Steven, how is it, I mean, I would say you
- 6 applied it equally, whether it was fairly I'm not sure I
- 7 would agree with that but you certainly applied it
- 8 equally. Now I really did not want to get into an
- 9 argument about this, I mean, I guess my frustration is
- 10 coming out because I sit at these meetings and meetings
- 11 like this all the time. He travels throughout Maryland
- 12 representing children against school districts in these
- 13 IEP meetings. Here's what Mr. Hammerbacher said to our
- 14 lawyer and to myself, Mr. Hammerbacher, head of
- 15 education special ed, you're not in other counties.
- 16 Mr. Steven, I know but I just find it so frustrating.
- 17 Mr. Hammerbacher, you're in Worcester County. I know,
- 18 Worcester County is a frustrating place when we talk
- 19 about extended school year because you guys just don't
- 20 seem to think that anybody qualifies for it, how is that
- 21 possible?

- 1 This is just one part of a transcript. You
- 2 know Worcester County have its own laws regarding
- 3 extended school year. I thought they had to follow
- 4 state and federal laws. My family has been fighting
- 5 this for a year and a half and we've gotten over 20
- 6 families have contacted us regarding the same things.
- 7 We have found out they're telling the same thing to
- 8 everybody, it's just unbelievable what they're doing.
- 9 They're getting away with it because nobody has the
- 10 money to take them to court and they know this. They
- 11 know it. They're not stupid. And that's -- I'll just
- 12 put this with it and that's about all I really have to
- 13 say. I appreciate your time.
- MS. JONES: Thank you. Give that to
- 15 Mr. Darden.
- MR. DiBUO: This is, I got A through E and
- 17 exhibits in here.
- MR. DARDEN: Do you need this back?
- MR. DiBUO: No, that's for you.
- MS. JONES: Do any of the rest of you have
- 21 something printed that you would like to leave with us?

- 1 MR. DiBUO: This is early intervention --
- 2 Children of Autism. This was done by the United States
- 3 Department of Education and the National Institute of
- 4 Health and it's regarding autistic children and the
- 5 things that they need to get a fair education. Thank
- 6 you very much.
- 7 MS. JONES: Thank you. We'll now entertain
- 8 questions.
- 9 MS. GILMORE: Thank you very much for all your
- 10 presentations. My first question is I just want to
- 11 empathize with you, I have a 10-year-old son who is
- 12 mildly autistic and I wanted to tell you that even
- 13 though Worcester County is a representation of latent
- 14 discrimination, latent is one of the numbers so we're
- 15 not just saying it. Baltimore City is just as
- 16 difficult. It a very difficult road and you're right,
- 17 there is not only that type of discrimination there is
- 18 economic discrimination because if you don't have the
- 19 funds there's but so much you can do and then there's
- 20 intimidation.
- I'd like to know have you organized the

- 1 parents around this particular thing, are you thinking
- 2 about any kind of class action?
- MR. DiBUO: We are, we've been advertising for
- 4 a class action lawsuit against them, against the state
- of Maryland Education Department and Worcester County
- 6 because they're a quasi unit I guess of the education
- 7 department so we have to sue both and we are still
- 8 actively seeking members right now we have 22 families
- 9 to date who have requested in on this.
- 10 Right now I'm going to federal district court,
- 11 hopefully that will be done within the next eight or
- 12 nine months. We filed an appeal, we lose that appeal
- 13 we're going to wherever else we have to go, we're not
- 14 going to quit. We also just filed a formal complaint
- with Miss Bagley with the department of education
- 16 regarding a meeting we just had and one of the
- 17 statements I just read. He also denied my son special
- 18 education, the proper services he needed this summer for
- 19 the therapist, occupational speech therapy he will not
- 20 give that to my son this summer so we filed a complaint
- 21 regarding all the things that happened.

- 1 MS. GILMORE: I hate to interrupt you but I
- 2 don't understand how the denial of occupational therapy
- 3 which is so evident, how did he do that?
- 4 MR. DiBUO: He does it all on his own. He's
- 5 gotten away with this for many years. No one has ever,
- 6 ever taken him to task on this. We're the first ones to
- 7 go this far with him and he just does it and he gets
- 8 away with it, he gets away with it.
- 9 MR. MOLOCK: You got to be from the Eastern
- 10 Shore. They get away with murder and nobody, as the
- 11 moderator said, basically 12 hours a day and trying to
- 12 educate the people you've got lawyers on your side.
- MS. GILMORE: It's constitutional. It's U.S.
- 14 and state constitutional.
- MR. DiBUO: We told him, he doesn't care.
- MS. PARDO: The judge ruled in your favor,
- 17 right?
- MR. DiBUO: She ruled that they broke all
- 19 procedural laws.
- MS. PARDO: That's it?
- MR. DiBUO: We were not awarded the money to

- 1 reimburse us. All we were asking for was reimbursement.
- 2 All we wanted was our lawyer fees because I feel they
- 3 forced me to get a lawyer to do this, why should the
- 4 family have to go spend \$25,000.
- 5 MS. PARDO: That is amazing.
- 6 MR. DiBUO: They had no consequences, none. I
- 7 have the entire transcripts if you-all want them, I have
- 8 everything.
- 9 MS. PARDO: Shame on you type of thing.
- 10 MR. DiBUO: That was it and nothing else
- 11 happened. That's why I'm continuing to fight.
- MS. GILMORE: There's absolutely no remedy
- 13 allowed?
- MR. DiBUO: Yes, she could have made remedy
- 15 but she chose not to.
- MS. PARDO: For the reasons that you were
- 17 stating.
- MR. DiBUO: Now, we've asked the federal court
- 19 to do that, to do what they feel is right with these
- 20 children so we'll find out his appeal. He can make them
- go down and do a study and do all kinds of stuff, he can

- 1 do that, we were told and he can make them change the
- 2 way they're doing business. We're hoping that he will
- 3 see what really happened.
- 4 MS. PARDO: You, Debra, have been asking the
- 5 same question. Are there any points of complaint, are
- 6 there any redresses, is there any -- you took all the
- 7 steps and you have, like you said, you've been blessed
- 8 with all these resources, monetary resources and look,
- 9 you still are a ways.
- 10 MR. DiBUO: Exactly, still have not won
- 11 anything.
- MS. PARDO: This is why this is so --
- MR. DiBUO: I think what they do, and I've
- 14 been told this, see, we know a lot of teachers. My
- 15 wife's family has been in Worcester County for over a
- 16 hundred years and some of her people are some of the
- 17 founding fathers of Ocean City. They didn't think we
- 18 had the resources to go after them. We found out they
- 19 were asking throughout the board of education trying to
- 20 find out what I did for a living, they didn't know.
- 21 They wanted to see how far we could go financially with

- 1 this.
- 2 My family, my wife's family, has many
- 3 businesses in Ocean City, I have my own business, God
- 4 has blessed us. We're very, very lucky that's the
- 5 reason we're taking our financial resources and we're
- 6 going to continue to fight.
- 7 MS. PARDO: How long have you been fighting
- 8 this?
- 9 MR. DiBUO: Since March of last year. It's
- 10 been over a year, March of last year. As a matter of
- 11 fact, I have lots of newspaper articles and also
- 12 editorials from other parents talking about the same
- 13 thing. We thought we were alone and then when I came
- 14 out in the papers -- I told my wife, I said we're going
- 15 public with this. We're a very private family, I didn't
- 16 want to do this and I said I can't believe they're doing
- 17 this, this is just blatant breaking of the federal and
- 18 state laws.
- MS. LEMKE: There is also such a sense of
- 20 outrage when we're talking about children.
- MR. DiBUO: To me it borders on child abuse

- 1 and that's what I call child abuse.
- 2 MS. LEMKE: I go to these meetings and I hear
- 3 consistently the kinds of things that are going on in
- 4 the education system, that's the thing that affects me
- 5 most is to think about when children are suffering
- 6 because nobody wants to do the right thing. It would
- 7 seem to me regardless of their religious orientation
- 8 morally you don't deprive a child of what they need,
- 9 regardless of what's going on with that child, the
- 10 income of their parents, the color of their parents, who
- 11 cares, but this notion of not doing the right thing --
- 12 obviously the right thing is you provide the services
- 13 that the child needs to excel to their level of
- 14 expertise and yet I'm hearing it all over the state that
- 15 this has not happened, that you walk in and you don't
- 16 look like you're you supposed to, you're not normal,
- 17 however that's defined, whether that be the color of
- 18 your skin or your abilities you just don't get the
- 19 services and I thought 504 was a thunderbolt that would
- 20 scare them to death but obviously that's not true.
- MS. JONES: It seems as if under the umbrella

- 1 of special ed you have two thing occurring, one is a
- 2 lack of demonstrated needed services and the other is an
- 3 over identification of youngsters who may not
- 4 necessarily need the services. So special ed does seem
- 5 to be a topic.
- 6 MS. GILMORE: Because you're using economic
- 7 resources for children who don't need to be there yet we
- 8 don't have the impetus to make a change in that. It's
- 9 like saying okay, so you really did bad, okay, go back
- 10 and do bad some more. But going to the federal level is
- 11 the right move and you have an excellent attorney.
- MS. JONES: Did you have a question?
- 13 MS. LEMKE: Just a comment. I had not heard
- 14 before this notion that this applies to the bright
- 15 children, the idea of singling out the bright African
- 16 American males. To marginalize it further they're
- 17 succeeding, they should be celebrated and yet not,
- that's an amazing piece for me that they're doing this.
- MR. MOLOCK: That's what they feel because
- 20 they know that the marginal child is going to be --
- 21 they're going to get him anyway in the juvenile services

- 1 but it's this little bright kid here.
- 2 MS. LEMKE: They don't want him to slip
- 3 through the cracks.
- 4 MR. MOLOCK: They're saying he might succeed
- 5 and it's not only -- it's quite a few of them.
- 6 MS. LEMKE: It sounds like a trend.
- 7 MS. LEE: My question was to Mr. Molock also
- 8 about, it's obviously not a stated policy but you
- 9 evidently have seen enough cases in many schools to
- 10 believe that this is an underlying theme.
- 11 MR. MOLOCK: That's my personal opinion.
- MS. LEE: Well, I understand that but with all
- 13 the cases that you've seen it makes quite a lot of
- 14 sense.
- MR. DiBBUO: I'll tell you a story real quick
- 16 about a special ed child who was a black child, a
- 17 minority. He was about 16, he had ADHD and this child
- 18 was always late but they tried to say he didn't have a
- 19 problem, he really does have a problem, I know the
- 20 child. He was an outstanding athlete. He never got
- 21 into any problems during the basketball season but once

- 1 basketball season was over then he had all kinds of
- 2 disciplinary actions taken against him. That's just to
- 3 back up what he's saying.
- 4 MS. LEE: I wondered, I taught special ed,
- 5 emotionally and behavior problem preschoolers, and I had
- 6 several autistic children and it seemed to me that there
- 7 is a national foundation for autism, that one of the
- 8 ball players from the Orioles has an autistic son and
- 9 was involved with and I wondered if maybe national
- 10 groups like that couldn't help you somehow.
- MR. DiBUO: We've gone to, we've gone to all
- 12 the politicians, the governor, the lieutenant governor,
- 13 all the local politicians. We did have one local
- 14 politician finally stand up and come listen to us just a
- 15 week ago at our house. We had some families over and
- 16 nobody seems to want to touch this issue.
- 17 The national groups are good and I think
- 18 they're making a national awareness of what's going on
- 19 but they're not really able to help on a local level,
- 20 that's the reason we started the group we started and
- 21 the reason we're going to keep doing what we're doing.

- 1 It's just, there's not much -- we've contacted
- 2 everybody. My wife sits home all day long practically
- 3 when she's not with a child going through that computer,
- 4 looking for people to help, writing letters. It's just
- 5 amazing, I don't know how she gets the energy or time to
- 6 do what she does but together as a team yet she's trying
- 7 to do the best for her child and also the best for these
- 8 other kids because it really makes us sad that we're
- 9 seeing Mark get these things and we're seeing Mark grow
- 10 and these other children are not getting this because
- 11 their families don't have the money.
- MS. GILMORE: Maybe they don't even know it
- 13 exists.
- MR. DiBUO: You're right, a lot of them don't.
- 15 The school districts don't want them to know either,
- 16 they don't want to diagnose these children.
- MS. PARDO: Right. What you said earlier
- 18 touched a nerve because I've seen it. I am Hispanic and
- 19 I've seen it in my communities of not wanting to bite
- 20 the hand that feeds them, whatever little services that
- 21 they get kind of staying quiet because they're afraid of

- 1 whatever repercussions and it's a reality in some of the
- 2 communities.
- MR. BALLARD: We're talking about if you can
- 4 recognize they want the numbers as far as special ed but
- 5 they don't want to produce the product, and I had that
- 6 incident with my kid. I took me two years to get him
- 7 out of special ed and he was not a special ed kid. Once
- 8 he got out of special ed the boy is in college today
- 9 doing well, you know, but they wanted him for numbers
- 10 and the numbers is the game. You know, they're playing
- 11 with people's lives with numbers and not often offering
- 12 the product that any kids, the real kids need.
- MS. GILMORE: That's the thing, that's the
- 14 trap, it unfortunate. And a lot of especially poor
- 15 adults in poverty with children with special needs and
- 16 who may not have special needs don't know how to
- 17 advocate for their kids and that's the tragedy. That's
- 18 why what you're doing is sort of bringing about
- 19 awareness of an issue that crosses racial lines, it
- 20 crosses, it touches everybody. It touches some of us
- 21 even deeply because you have those class issues involved

- 1 with it also.
- MR. DARDEN: I had a question. Before I ask
- 3 the question, in the interest of full disclosure I
- 4 should say that in the back of the room we have a
- 5 Wicomico County former councilman and present state
- 6 representative, first African American from his area
- 7 Mr. Rudy Kane who is also a former member of this
- 8 advisory committee so as a public official before I ask
- 9 my question about public officials I wanted you to know
- 10 that I know him, and he's a former member of the
- 11 committee but also to let you know that that doesn't let
- 12 him off the hook because he's a former member of the
- 13 committee.
- We asked some of the earlier panels about
- whether promises from their local officials had been
- 16 made regarding some of the concerns and problems that
- 17 you-all have talked about so that we would know how to
- 18 hold their feet to the fire, so to speak. Whether there
- 19 have been any statements or things that public officials
- 20 have committed themselves to do and we could follow up
- 21 to see whether or to what extent they have actually

- 1 fulfilled those promises. Now so far we haven't even
- 2 heard that there were any promises made which is hard to
- 3 believe of politicians.
- 4 MR. OKURA: They're always willing to make
- 5 promises even if they don't carry them out and
- 6 especially just last week there was a big article in the
- 7 Washington Post about an autistic child who became
- 8 valedictorian of his class. I'm sure you all read it.
- 9 So nationally there is the autistic society that is
- 10 trying to do the help but here, I can't believe that
- 11 your county would have 0 and all these other counties
- 12 range from 200 to 1500 in Montgomery County, they must
- 13 be getting some attention. Now why is it that your
- 14 county is being completely neglected.
- MR. DiBUO: I think the main reason is we have
- in our county a lot of people with wealth and a lot of
- 17 people that are poor. There's some people in between,
- 18 very few, there's a lot of private businesses and stuff
- 19 and what happens is the poor people are afraid to bite
- 20 the hand that feeds them. Like I said, and they have
- 21 been able to intimidate, the school board members will

- 1 intimidate these parents at these meetings. They did to
- 2 me. When I came to my meeting I have a pipe business, I
- 3 sell pipe. I had boots on, shorts, they probably
- 4 thought I was just some regular Joe, I am but they just
- 5 figured look at this guy, not dressed up or nothing, how
- 6 smart can he be.
- I told my wife that, you know what, I should
- 8 have dressed up for this meeting. I came right from
- 9 work, they just think I'm some guy from up the street
- 10 who doesn't know anything about law. I have a business
- 11 I've run for 23 years, I know a lot about laws and a lot
- 12 about contracts. I read all the things they gave me.
- 13 They gave me a list of procedural rights but they don't
- 14 follow the rights and they're so blatant about it it's
- 15 unbelievable. And how they get away with it is because
- 16 the apathy, I shouldn't say apathy. I think the parents
- 17 are afraid, I really truly believe that the parents are
- 18 afraid to rock the boat because of what will happen.
- MR. OKURA: I think that we can help, the
- 20 Advisory Committee, by at least asking the state
- 21 department of education why is it and just ask the

- 1 question, why is it that other counties are getting help
- 2 and this county is getting nothing and so we can at
- 3 least introduce that question and they have got to give
- 4 us some kind of an answer.
- 5 MR. DiBUO: We just did, our lawyer just wrote
- 6 a letter to them in our formal complaint asking that.
- 7 MR. OKURA: If it comes from a committee on
- 8 civil rights we can at least ask a question and we'll
- 9 see what kind of an answer we get.
- 10 MR. DiBUO: That would be great.
- MS. KANE: Being an elected official I would
- 12 like to --
- MR. DARDEN: Make a promise?
- MS. GILMORE: We love those.
- 15 MR. KANE: I would like to address an
- 16 observation. Being on the Commission for some years I
- 17 learned to listen and I heard this young man state that
- 18 he has contacted all of elected officials or his spouse.
- 19 And I beg the difference, no one has ever contacted me.
- 20 I'm fortunate to have been here today to have heard
- 21 this, but on behalf of being an elected official I don't

- 1 represent that district, I'm in 37, but I would have
- 2 been more than glad to have looked into it and I'm still
- 3 willing to do that.
- 4 But to make the statement then puts me in a
- 5 category that I think I don't deserve to be in. So my
- 6 promise was to be a good servant to the people and right
- 7 now it's telling me I'm not a good servant for something
- 8 I know nothing about. So I would like for the young man
- 9 to explain to me in detail, I came in late, and then
- 10 give me an opportunity and I'll be happy to do that.
- MR. DiBUO: That would be great. And I want
- 12 to take that back, when I say every politician we wrote
- 13 practically everybody we could think of, I'm sorry we
- 14 missed you.
- MR. KANE: I just wanted to be clear.
- MR. OKURA: He's going to do something about
- 17 it.
- 18 MR. DARDEN: Let me throw it back to the panel
- 19 here, the dynamic you just saw at work can happen on
- 20 other issues and other topics if you tell us what it is
- 21 that you want us to ask about. So far we haven't gotten

- 1 much. I'm giving you an opportunity now. Tell us what
- 2 your think your public officials, your elected officials
- 3 ought to be doing that they're not and we'll try to look
- 4 into it and see why not.
- 5 REV. SANDS: I was just wondering about the
- 6 community relations committee on the citizen's review
- 7 board, is that something that people will back off
- 8 because they are afraid as well?
- 9 MR. MOLOCK: Well, this again is my personal
- 10 opinion, the good old boy syndrome kicks in and what I
- 11 mean by that they don't want no change. Now, let's say
- 12 that I get stopped by a cop and the cop roughs me up,
- 13 which is a whole lot goes on here, and but that's a
- 14 traffic stop and I have to go to the hospital and they
- 15 patch me up and all that. But now I go file a
- 16 complaint, I got to file it with the police, the police
- 17 carries it to the special, what is it called, it's a
- 18 special unit that investigates police and the findings
- 19 are coming back that they was justified in what they did
- 20 so it stops. But if you have a human relations
- 21 commission you carry it to them with subpoena power they

- 1 can look into it further.
- 2 MR. SANDS: I misunderstood. I thought you
- 3 were saying you need a citizens review body and couldn't
- 4 get one.
- 5 MR. MOLOCK: We can't get one because the
- 6 mayor will not adhere to it, the chief of police
- 7 definitely doesn't want it, and most of your law
- 8 enforcement doesn't want it, no.
- 9 REV. SANDS: It's a citizen review board.
- 10 MR. MOLOCK: In fact, the citizens want a
- 11 citizen review board so that private citizens, that is,
- 12 that we can send to the police so they don't police
- 13 themselves. Do you understand what I'm saying?
- 14 REV. SANDS: If you are arrested and accused
- of certain things you're in a much better position to
- defend yourself saying that only happens because I'm
- 17 trying to get a citizen's review board than you are
- 18 without being able to say that. That's true. If you
- 19 say I'm being harassed because I'm a member of the
- 20 citizen's review board in the police department you're
- 21 in a much better position if you are arrested for the

- 1 same thing and cannot say that.
- 2 MR. MOLOCK: Yes, but what I'm just saying
- 3 that, but that's the reason why they don't want none
- 4 because they don't want nobody else to police them.
- 5 REV. SANDS: Always more of us than them,
- 6 particularly people, always more people then them. How
- 7 badly is the citizen's review board wanted is probably
- 8 the question. Nothing to be gained that is given.
- 9 MS. GILMORE: I have a question of
- 10 Mr. Ballard. You mentioned the conditions in the jails.
- 11 Have there ever been any studies about or are there any
- 12 organizations studying the conditions in the jails
- 13 around here, any formal reports, any statistics,
- 14 anything to corroborate?
- MR. BALLARD: No, right now we are working on
- one and I'd be more than glad to furnish you the
- information in reference to the county jails. I have 15
- 18 years longevity with the state correctional system and
- 19 there are some things inside of the state correction
- 20 system that needs to be very well looked at, not only
- 21 with inmates but with the officers as well.

- 1 MS. JONES: Question for Mr. Lawrence. Did
- 2 you indicate that you got some federal funds for your
- 3 self-help program?
- 4 MR. LAWRENCE: We have not. We have gotten
- 5 only \$250 for a smoking program.
- 6 MS. GILMORE: I'm sorry, what program?
- 7 MR. LAWRENCE: A smoking program. Congressman
- 8 Gilchrist told us about five years ago we could have
- 9 gotten monies but our primary concern now is not money
- 10 but bringing the people together. Okay, now, it was
- about a \$400,000 grant that came down to Pocomoke City
- 12 and they had us on the committee. And what they did we
- were the only one that had a charter to do what they
- 14 wanted to do. They wanted to network the churches, the
- 15 government as a piece that we could communicate these
- 16 concerns and these problems. Okay, now, we were the
- only one that had the charter in place.
- Now the local management board was handling
- 19 the money in Worcester County. Now, when they got ready
- 20 to spend the money we said who got authority for this,
- 21 and nobody had authority who is going to be responsible.

- 1 Then we said we could not participate unless until you
- 2 tell us what we're responsible for so we could
- 3 participate if you tell us what you want us to do so
- 4 they end up spending the money and nothing got done.
- 5 MS. JONES: And you didn't get any?
- MR. LAWRENCE: No, we didn't. So what we did,
- 7 we didn't participate because we needed to know exactly
- 8 what we were going to be responsible for, okay. We
- 9 can't participate on something everybody just spending
- 10 this money and nobody knows what they are responsible
- 11 for, so we said we couldn't participate but what they
- 12 did they put together a committee without any charter,
- 13 they don't have a charter, they went out and spent all
- 14 the money. They absorbed it back into the existing
- 15 programs that was already there.
- MS. JONES: Thank you. Mr. Darden a little
- 17 earlier indicated that we need to know how we can best
- 18 help you therefore you need to help us frame very
- 19 clearly the problems that you need addressed on the
- 20 Shore. And we'll see then what we can do to assess.
- 21 Now, there is a common, two common threads as I heard

- 1 but it's for you to tell us specifically how we can best
- 2 help you. I heard law enforcement pretty clearly. I
- 3 heard education pretty clearly, but you have to be very
- 4 specific in framing your questions or your concerns so
- 5 that we can do our part with this.
- 6 MR. LAWRENCE: What we're finding out in our
- 7 community is that it's hard to get people to talk. We
- 8 can't do that if the churches won't come together, they
- 9 become a barrier within itself. If people communicate
- 10 they find out they got the resources in their own
- 11 community they can talk about it but they can't do it
- 12 without assistance, they have to have a system in place.
- 13 We have that system in place but we've been trying to
- 14 get to the table to show them how they can solve their
- own problems and like I said, it's through education.
- MS. JONES: Well, okay, thank you.
- 17 REV. SANDS: Can you tell me about any
- 18 experiences with any black or Hispanic child in special
- 19 education? Can you tell me anything about anything
- 20 about that? Has anyone interviewed, evaluated anything
- 21 on the children who are involved in special education

- 1 experiences to say this happened and that shouldn't have
- 2 or this happened and that was bad or this was a result
- 3 of being in Special education, if they hadn't been in
- 4 special ed.
- 5 You talked about your son who went to college.
- 6 Are there instances like that which are cases that will
- 7 show the status of those who put them into it know that
- 8 it's a bad experience?
- 9 MR. MOLOCK: I have only one case that I know
- 10 of and that was my sister's child and they had him in
- 11 special education and the teacher, I mean she just said
- 12 that's where he is going to be at and that's where she
- 13 put him at. And so my sister went all the way up to the
- 14 superintendent and she finally convinced him that he
- didn't need to be in there. So what happened they
- 16 started a day care, tutoring program, at Fruitland
- 17 Elementary and they put him in there and now he's at
- 18 Martin in advanced engineering classes and but this is
- 19 what I tell everybody because the teacher say it don't
- 20 makes it right.
- MS. GILMORE: That's the fear level of a lot

- 1 of parents because of authority. The teacher is the
- 2 ultimate authority, elected officials are authorities so
- 3 whatever they say to us and if you get in front of a
- 4 judge and you hear that, if a judge can tell you your
- 5 child does not deserve so and so and you believe it it's
- 6 how you view that and I as a leader can provide
- 7 education to the parents of these children on both sides
- 8 so we can empower them to do something, I know you're
- 9 out there doing it.
- 10 MR. MOLOCK: Right. And another thing like I
- 11 asked the question like what can you do. I don't know
- 12 per se if that's the right answer down on the Shore. I
- don't know -- what I'm trying to say is I'm trying to
- 14 give you an answer that's suitable for this area and
- which is hard. We need more communication, written
- 16 communication, in layman's terms that the average Joe
- 17 Blow can understand. And a lot of times when the people
- are to the wall they don't have anywhere to turn, who to
- 19 turn to to get their answers or get another legal advice
- 20 and we need a whole lot of legal advice down here, I
- 21 mean because some of the things that are going on.

- 1 MS. JONES: Well, I just heard you that your
- 2 sister's child was placed in a class apparently without
- 3 her permission or consent, now that's a legal issue
- 4 right there.
- 5 MR. MOLOCK: That's right.
- 6 MS. JONES: There are very set guidelines for
- 7 kids entering into programs. Parents or quardians are
- 8 supposed to sign a paper or attend these ARD meetings
- 9 that provides them with the necessary information.
- 10 There are books that the state produces regarding
- 11 parental rights on special services. They're part of
- 12 COMAR, that's the legal code that governs our school
- 13 system. If those kinds of laws are being broken on a
- 14 fairly regular basis then you can bring people together
- 15 to talk about that and to provide some evidence that
- 16 this actually has occurred and is occurring pretty wide
- 17 spread like he's indicating the small amount of
- 18 youngsters in extended day programs.
- I know we're a small county and he indicated
- 20 we have 30 kids in it. I worked with the summer
- 21 program. I know that we provide them and I know that

- 1 our system doesn't have money but we also know that
- 2 legally we are required to do that so I'm just saying
- 3 that through education and networking and trying to
- 4 bring the parents and to making them feel comfortable to
- 5 sit down and share with you their personal experiences
- 6 then you begin to see patterns and begin to get a
- 7 clearer picture of what is occurring and also to be able
- 8 to document if it's a pattern of discriminatory
- 9 behavior.
- MS. HUDSON: How do you make a person who has
- 11 come to you who has voiced a complaint or concern but is
- 12 scared to go public because of it because of
- 13 repercussions? They think that because this teacher or
- 14 official says that it's how it should be, how it's going
- 15 to be even though if they object to it they're scared to
- speak out. They will come and say it to me, they will
- 17 say it to their friends but they won't say it to public
- 18 officials, I need my job. Suppose that gets around to
- 19 my supervisor, and then I'm out of a job, how am I going
- 20 to take care of my family.
- MS. JONES: But there is strength in unity and

- 1 in numbers. If you have three or four people that
- 2 they're not willing to step out on a leap of faith but
- 3 if you have a room full of people who are expressing
- 4 concerns those are who reluctant are more apt to say
- 5 okay, I can do this because I've got a lot of support.
- 6 MR. DARDEN: Let me also add as a practical
- 7 matter if after today you know of individuals who have
- 8 examples from their own experience and who wish to share
- 9 the information with us but not be identified themselves
- 10 we will accept that kind of information. It would be
- 11 best if the person, first of all, just write a note,
- 12 send it to us, it would be best if that person did
- identify themselves to me, we would not use their name
- 14 but even if they are afraid of that and would just share
- 15 the information and ask that they remain anonymous we
- 16 would still accept that as well.
- 17 You have our address and you know how to
- 18 contact us. I've said over and over again our purpose
- 19 here is to hear from the community, from citizens and I
- 20 know exactly what you're talking about.
- The Civil Rights Commission has subpoena power

- 1 because from the very beginning we had trouble on both
- 2 sides, government officials might not want to share what
- 3 they know, subpoena power was there to compel them to do
- 4 it.
- 5 On the other hand, in the old days, maybe like
- 6 yesterday, there were community people who would want to
- 7 talk but if they had a subpoena and had to speak then
- 8 that was the reason why they could and would come before
- 9 the commission and make the statements that they did
- 10 because they had no other choice. The civil rights
- 11 commission uses it subpoena power to protect people as
- 12 well as to compel information from public officials.
- 13 We've had a lot of experience with that. I know what
- 14 you're talking about. We don't want people to feel as
- 15 though they are putting themselves in jeopardy but I
- 16 think it is important if we're going to have a report
- 17 that has, we talked about this in the committee earlier,
- 18 has some integrity that is a true reflection of the
- 19 concerns in the community that we get that kind of
- 20 information of what is actually going on when you peel
- 21 back the layers and you get down to everyday experiences

- 1 for minorities in this community, so please, we would be
- 2 happy to keep that as part of our record.
- MR. BALLARD: What we have done as presidents
- 4 of the NAACP on the Shore we have become unified. We
- 5 realize that we weren't large enough in each county to
- 6 handle our battles so we pulled all the counties
- 7 together and united we felt that we could accomplish
- 8 something and this has only been happening for the last
- 9 three months so you'll definitely be hearing from the
- 10 united counties because our problems are very much
- 11 related.
- MR. DARDEN: Are you trying to say that our
- 13 meeting helped you to bring -- I'm just teasing you, I'm
- 14 sorry.
- Mr. DiBUO: You had asked specifically how you
- 16 could help. I tried to get, I asked Dr. John Andrews
- 17 back in January to form a task force regarding special
- 18 education, regarding a lot of the problem that were
- 19 discussed with all of you today. That task force, of
- 20 course, was never formed. I was told that they had a
- 21 committee of special education, of people that are

- 1 parents, teachers, whatever that form this committee
- 2 that takes on special education issues.
- I don't even -- they won't even tell me who is
- 4 on the committee. I found out on my own a few members.
- 5 It's mostly people on this committee who will side with
- 6 them so by having the committee like that you're never
- 7 going to get the injustices brought out because
- 8 everybody is sort of protecting each other. What I
- 9 think needs to be done and what I would love to have
- 10 done is an to independent committee formed to
- 11 investigate what's going on back there and not be
- 12 appointed by any of the school people because that's
- 13 what going on. I've asked to be on the committee, they
- 14 won't allow me on that committee. I couldn't pay them a
- 15 million dollars to get on that committee because I would
- 16 stir up too much stuff. But what we need, the only way
- we're going to -- the bulk of the teachers want to talk
- 18 but they're scared. You're talking about the subpoena.
- 19 If we could subpoen some of these teachers you would
- 20 get more information and more stuff on these people than
- 21 you ever dreamed of because they're scared to death.

- 1 They have tremendous caseloads but they won't talk about
- 2 it because they're afraid they'll get fired. They won't
- 3 hire the extra people to help these teachers so they'd
- 4 rather them be jammed up with 20 special education kids
- 5 in one class.
- 6 MS. GILMORE: At varying levels.
- 7 MR. DiBUO: Right, exactly. And if we can get
- 8 in Worcester County a committee put together appointed
- 9 maybe by somebody from the Commission, you know, and
- 10 keep the education people out of it we could really
- 11 truly see what I'm talking about and the parents will
- 12 come out, the teachers will have to talk. We already
- 13 have a lot of parents that will talk on their own
- 14 without a subpoena but the teachers won't, they will not
- 15 talk unless they were subpoenaed, I can guarantee you
- 16 that. They're scared to death but you would get a lot
- of information. That's the only way you'll get the
- 18 information.
- 19 MS. JONES: Thank you so much for your coming.
- 20 We appreciate your coming.
- 21 MR. OKURA: The current panel session is

- 1 concluded. We're going to take a break from 5:15 to 6
- 2 o'clock and if at our 6 o'clock meeting anybody that
- 3 wants to testify or anybody that wants to speak up
- 4 please sign the register there so we can put you on the
- 5 program between 6 and 7.
- 6 (Recess.)
- 7 MR. OKURA: May I call the meeting back to
- 8 order, our community forum continuation, and we have
- 9 exactly one hour set aside for this informal open
- 10 communication between those that want to appear and
- 11 speak to the advisory panel here. Now, we have two
- 12 scheduled speakers however there are a number -- how
- many do we have?
- MR. DARDEN: We have seven.
- MR. OKURA: There's seven speakers. We can
- 16 run it until ten minutes after 7 but that will be the
- 17 latest because some of us have a three-hour ride to get
- 18 home again this evening so without further ado I want to
- 19 caution the first two scheduled speakers to limit their
- 20 time because we have seven other people who have signed
- 21 up who want to express their opinions and express their

- 1 concerns about what is happening in their community or
- 2 to them relative to the whole issue of civil rights.
- 3 So I'd like to now call Mr. Edward Lee,
- 4 vice-president of NAACP of the Maryland State Conference
- of Branches. Now, again, it's unfortunate we only have
- 6 an hour but I would like to caution that we will allow
- 7 you to speak for around ten minutes and I hope you can
- 8 cover your points in that short time, so Mr. Lee.
- 9 MR. LEE: Patrick, I'm going to do the best
- 10 that I can. What I will do is try to read rather than
- 11 ad lib. I first want to thank the Commission for being
- 12 here having this opportunity and then I again, I want to
- 13 congratulate and thank all of those that had the courage
- 14 to come forward today and share with you in this part of
- 15 the world. It's takes a lot of courage.
- I want to address two issues and hopefully
- 17 will be able to offer some solutions or raise some
- 18 questions to the panel. I want to address EEOC, the
- 19 Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, I want to
- 20 share with you that on the Eastern Shore there is no
- 21 intake office whatsoever. This is in and of itself a

- 1 form of discrimination, it's a form of
- 2 disenfranchisement. We have on the shore, as you have
- 3 heard, three major populations, the African American
- 4 community, a growing Hispanic community and a white
- 5 community and I divide that white community into an
- 6 upper and a lower class. And if we look at what is
- 7 taking place here on the Shore and we look at remedies
- 8 to the overall kinds of problems that I'm certain that I
- 9 heard here today that this commission is facing at the
- 10 base of it it's economics, it's economics and politics
- and if we are looking at the population and community,
- 12 particularly here on the lower shore that has poultry
- 13 workers, specifically the chicken catchers, almost a
- 14 hundred percent of them until recently have been African
- 15 American.
- When we look at the plant operations we're
- 17 looking at Hispanics and women and poor whites and poor
- 18 underclass. It's almost apartheid in disguise here on
- 19 the shore and there is a system that is set up that
- 20 penalizes you and punishes you, you've heard that said.
- 21 My issue with this Commission that EEOC is the means and

- 1 the vehicle to provide relief in employment
- 2 discrimination and there is no place where you can turn
- 3 to, let me share with you what does exist, however.
- 4 There is an arm's length relationship and before I go to
- 5 that I have a note that I want to share with you that
- 6 most recently the chicken catchers won a \$2.4 million
- 7 lawsuit against Perdue. NAACP is a member of this a
- 8 poultry justice alliance, a collaboration that came
- 9 together to make that happen, to bring some equity to a
- 10 situation. Should it not be the NAACP and others who
- 11 came together to do that there would have been no
- 12 relief. The relief mechanism that should have been in
- 13 place for those persons, the poultry workers was what.
- 14 EEOC when they felt that they were being discriminated
- 15 the court holds therefore that there was discrimination
- in that matter and, in fact, awarded them a settlement
- 17 then I think that you as a Commission have to join with
- 18 us and saying that where was the EEOC, why is it that
- 19 EEOC only has a relationship here on the Shore with the
- 20 human relations committee and in Salisbury only, and in
- 21 Salisbury only to our knowledge.

- 1 I share with you that on yesterday preparing, getting ready for this, because I shared with Mr. Odoms 2 it was not until the day before yesterday that it really 3 came that I could be here, I asked a young lady please 4 5 call EEOC and tell me what response that you got. she called and she got the response that I knew that she 6 7 would get, she got a phone message that told her that if 8 she has a discrimination case and that she wants to report it that she would write a written complaint and 9 it will not be heard unless she sends a written 10 11 statement. 12 I want to come back to the base population here on the Eastern Shore that are uneducated or a lot
- 13 14 of them illiterate Hispanics and poor whites who cannot 15 write, show me where the relief is there and the equity in that given situation. I would say to you that we 16 17 met, and I'm rushing, with director Lee, and I'm looking for his name, James Lee, he came here and met with 18 several of the people who are in this very room now and 19 20 when we began to talk to him and asked him about 21 particular matters we said let's cut to the chase and

- 1 deal with the substantive issues, systemic change, and
- 2 that is getting an EEOC office here on the Eastern
- 3 Shore.
- 4 He paid lip service and promised to take a
- 5 look at it, gave me his name, be sure to call, his chief
- 6 investigator was right there, bottom line, folks, when
- 7 it came down he said we offered, it was before October
- 8 of last year, we offered while they marking up the
- 9 budget, the federal budget, before October that we would
- 10 pull forces together and go with a congressional
- 11 bi-partisan delegation to get a line item in the budget
- 12 based on the need. You know what his response was, they
- 13 couldn't do it because there were not enough
- 14 discrimination cases coming from the Eastern Shore.
- 15 Folks, tell me something, hello, did you hear me? Now, I
- 16 think you've got the message. I'm going to leave that
- 17 one alone.
- I think there are two questions that you may
- 19 want to consider and certainly one that I'm going to
- 20 recommend to Mr. Odoms that he pursue this matter
- 21 promptly and that is that I believe we're going to have

- 1 to take a civil action against the department of EEOC.
- 2 I think you'll have to look it in real terms as a
- 3 Commission and make a determination how you can support
- 4 us in that effort. I mean, it's a closed case. I mean,
- 5 what has taken place and in terms of their refusal to
- 6 act accordingly here on the Shore I think I just have to
- 7 leave that because I could spend my last five minutes on
- 8 that.
- 9 Education is probably for me the most
- 10 important issue facing us here on the Shore. Having
- 11 served in the capacity as the branch president here on
- 12 the lower shore and now serving as the third
- 13 vice-president of the Maryland State Conference we have
- 14 no greater issue. We have no greater issue. And I want
- 15 to share with you in Worcester County something that
- 16 most recently happened and look at the issues that are
- there and again, how possibly you can help.
- The greater issue that we face on the Shore is
- 19 closing the educational and gap as African American
- 20 people and Hispanic people and people of color and poor
- 21 people. It does not relate merely to the African

- 1 American community. Our community came together went to
- 2 the county commissioners, went to the board of education
- 3 and said let's create a committee, we need to study this
- 4 thing and determine an action plan how we're going to do
- 5 it, forget the rhetoric, how are we going to do it,
- 6 what's the plan.
- 7 That plan is now on the table but let me share
- 8 with you that plan stands a very, very frail chance of
- 9 producing any substantive kinds of actions that will
- 10 begin to close that gap for the following reasons that
- 11 we live, when we look at Worcester County, number one,
- 12 you'll see that it's the richest county, I think it's
- 13 the second richest county, Worcester County, in the
- 14 state of Maryland.
- The fact of the matter is, and I don't want
- 16 the quote the figure because it doesn't come to me
- immediately, but we have a disproportionate
- 18 representation of free lunch students in Worcester
- 19 County and most of the counties but look at a county now
- 20 that is looked at as a richest county in the state of
- 21 Maryland.

- Well, it's just like the good old south, it's
- 2 the northern end and the southern end, and on the
- 3 northern end you have an influx of retirees and
- 4 businesses and on the middle and the southern end you
- 5 have the rest of the county. The legislative formula
- 6 for funding mitigates strongly against Worcester County
- 7 in terms of a funding formula to provide equity in a
- 8 situation in Snow Hill, or in Worcester County. There's
- 9 a tax implication here and you can imagine what it is
- 10 between the northern and the southern end, if we're
- 11 going to talk about the resources to close the gaps it's
- 12 not there. It has been my opinion of the solutions
- 13 there now rely on secretary Nancy Grasnik [phonetic],
- 14 her need for consideration of looking at her budget and
- 15 also from the superintendents and from the political
- 16 arena.
- I'm going to close. I've monitored my time
- 18 and I hear you. I think that you have heard clearly the
- 19 message that this community has successfully been
- 20 marginalized, you've heard that. There is
- 21 disenfranchisement in every aspect of this community in

- 1 the social, economic life, and certainly we know 12
- 2 o'clock on Sunday what takes place here, is in good
- 3 form, 11 o'clock on Sunday is in good form here on the
- 4 Shore.
- 5 The question that I have regarding this group
- 6 is how can you assist us in the areas that I've
- 7 specifically talked about for the community at large.
- 8 It appears to me if you look at the people who had the
- 9 courage in small numbers to come before you today it
- 10 raises some flags and it should raise some flags
- 11 consistently what they're saying in terms of how people
- 12 are treated and will be treated to come forward and do
- 13 something like this so it seems to me that, and I
- 14 applaud you for being here, and you cannot solve all the
- 15 problems in the state of Maryland but I applaud you that
- 16 this group of people that you have here is your core
- 17 group to work with to begin a turnaround. And in doing
- 18 so it appears to me that there must be and needs to be a
- 19 followup with this group of people to come back so that
- 20 again, and you raised the question and we heard you,
- 21 what are the solutions, what is it that you want from us

- 1 and how can we assist you. We need a dialogue to make
- 2 that determination.
- I've said some things here but other people
- 4 have said some, how do we narrow those in scope to
- 5 prioritize them so that you come out with the kind of
- 6 report that you will make that will empower us to make
- 7 the kinds of substantive changes that have to be made.
- 8 Thank you for your time.
- 9 MR. OKURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Lee, for
- 10 your very articulate message to us and we will take into
- 11 consideration the suggestions you have made and I
- 12 appreciate you sticking to the ten minutes that we
- 13 allowed you.
- 14 MR. LEE: I do think I went a little over.
- MR. OKURA: That's all right.
- MR. LEE: Thank you.
- MR. DARDEN: We scheduled our adjournment for
- 18 7 o'clock and even though ten minutes might be the
- 19 desirable amount of time with the number that we have
- 20 that would carry us for at least another hour, more than
- 21 another hour.

- 1 If the rest of the speakers could limit
- 2 themselves to three to five minutes we would be very
- 3 happy to accept your written statements afterward but I
- 4 think if we went much beyond that we wouldn't be able to
- 5 let the guard go and that's really one of the outside
- 6 considerations, he's expecting to go home at 7 too,
- 7 thank you very much.
- 8 MR. OKURA: Now the next scheduled speaker is
- 9 Ruby Purnell. And again, I need to caution you in terms
- 10 of the time and we will allow you from five to seven
- 11 minutes so if you can make your presentation in that
- 12 time we'd appreciate it.
- MS. PURNELL: I will try to be very diligent
- 14 in my comments. I first of all would like to thank the
- 15 Commission for coming to the Eastern Shore. And I do
- 16 need to do one thing and I think I need to clear up some
- 17 confusion about my identity. When I called you,
- 18 Mr. Darden, it was quite a lot of confusion about Ruby
- 19 Purnell. I am Ruby S. Purnell. I am not affiliated
- 20 with the NAACP.
- MR. DARDEN: For the record I will state that

- 1 our previous references to a Ruby Purnell did not, is
- 2 not, were not references to the present Ruby S. Purnell.
- 3 The record is clear on that.
- 4 MS. PURNELL: Thank you very much. First of
- 5 all, I'd like to introduce my husband, this is Marvin
- 6 Purnell and he's a retired Maryland state policeman with
- 7 over a 20-year career but he's here for my support. I'm
- 8 actually, I think I need to say something about red
- 9 flags and I would think that with the Commission coming
- 10 this close to all the areas, a central area in Wicomico
- 11 County, Talbot County, Somerset counties, Worcester
- 12 County that there would be red flags going up for all
- 13 the empty seats that I see and I really truly believe
- 14 that, I'm not saying what this would solve all of the
- 15 problems of getting the people here and wanting to
- 16 express themselves and bring their concerns and just --
- 17 but I did not learn about this forum here today until
- 18 Tony DiBuo faxed me a sheet from your news release. And
- 19 I got that on Thursday and not until Friday afternoon
- 20 did I see anything in the local newspapers about the
- 21 forum.

- 1 And I was under the impression when my
- 2 sister-in-law actually was asked to be a panelist and
- 3 she was sharing this with my husband about a week ago
- 4 that she had no idea what was going on, she said she had
- 5 to find out just what the forum was going to be about.
- 6 She never knew that it was open to the public and this
- 7 is where I think it's appearing that no one has any
- 8 problems in this area, no one has anything to share or
- 9 but that is not the case.
- This area is infiltrated but nothing but
- 11 problems. And I don't even, just the time that I've got
- 12 allotted here I can't even attempt to express some of
- 13 the concerns that I have listened to, some of the
- 14 concerns that I've actually experienced myself.
- MR. DARDEN: Perhaps in the next minute or two
- 16 you could just start with one or two.
- MS. PURNELL: That young man that Tony DiBuo
- 18 was talking about, that athlete from Worcester County
- 19 was actually, is actually my nephew and I tried
- 20 desperately to help him and my niece through the
- 21 problems that he has been going through all his life.

- 1 However, the older he got this young man has been a
- 2 diagnosed ADHD since second grade and he was on
- 3 legalized drugs, my opinion, Ritalin for ten years.
- 4 And as the young man grew up and his voice
- 5 changed and he got some height to him everybody began to
- 6 be afraid of him. However, they didn't give him the
- 7 services throughout the school years but when they
- 8 realized that this young man had talent to toss a
- 9 basketball all of a sudden everybody just thought he was
- 10 the greatest thing since ice cream.
- However, when the basketball season was over
- 12 what would happen to this young man is he could not
- 13 breathe, he couldn't look at anybody the wrong way, but
- 14 the young man has been on drugs. Where that young man
- 15 is today is in the Somerset County jail and it is
- 16 attributed to the life that he has -- I don't want to --
- 17 I really came here to say this, I really did, is that
- 18 this kind of forum should be well publicized. It should
- 19 be not just handled in a situation where it's put in the
- 20 paper the day before.
- MR. DARDEN: Excuse me, I hate to interrupt,

- 1 that's been five minutes but just to respond we really
- 2 can't control when they put --
- MS. PURNELL: They just got notice of it. I
- 4 called the paper.
- MR. DARDEN: No. No, no, they have had -- the
- 6 newspapers work that way. As a matter of fact, we made
- 7 followup telephone calls to see which papers would be
- 8 sending reporters and each one of them said we won't
- 9 know until the day of because we have to wait and see
- 10 what other stories there might be so they definitely
- were provided as well as a number of the other members
- 12 of the invited panelists. You just found out about it,
- 13 that's something that I wish we could work on.
- MS. PURNELL: Even the panelists didn't hear
- 15 about it until last week.
- MR. DARDEN: Let's just say we'll do better in
- 17 the future but we need to move on.
- MS. PURNELL: Okay. I think you would get a
- 19 better response from people and the time frame to sit
- 20 here and try to rush through this, it's no way in the
- 21 world you can articulate what is in -- it's no way it

- 1 can be done.
- 2 MR. PURNELL: As Mr. DiBuo stated earlier, he
- 3 stated there was in fact a lot of problems in Worcester
- 4 County and there are, had I have known this forum was
- 5 going to take place I would have been more than glad to
- 6 have cited some incidents and of course I'm a person
- 7 that have to name names and I have firsthand information
- 8 on a lot of the conditions and things that are, in fact,
- 9 going on.
- MR. DARDEN: Let me offer this, I understand
- 11 that you don't have enough time and other people as
- 12 well. I'd be very happy to have an interview with you
- 13 sometime after the meeting the next week. If you have
- 14 contact information for me just give me a buzz and we'll
- 15 set something up, okay?
- MR. PURNELL: Okay.
- MR. DARDEN: Okay, thank you.
- MR. OKURA: Now, the seven people who have
- 19 signed up who want to speak we're going to allow you
- 20 five minutes at the most so that we probably can end by
- 21 7:10 at the latest, we got started a little late. So

- 1 the first person we want to call on is Mary Ashanti.
- 2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She said that she had to
- 3 leave.
- 4 MR. DARDEN: All right. Now, these are two
- 5 new people?
- 6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
- 7 MR. OKURA: That makes eight people, eight or
- 8 nine. Is Joana Weaver here.
- 9 MS. WEAVER: That's me. As everybody said I
- 10 will try to keep my comments to five minutes but I think
- 11 that I'm dealing with a very underserved population
- 12 here. I am a substitute teacher in Wicomico County. I
- 13 am a new substitute teacher in Wicomico County. The
- 14 reason why I am a new substitute teacher in Wicomico
- 15 County is because I'm 33 years old and it took me a long
- 16 time to get a job because nobody here will hire you if
- 17 you're disabled. That's number one. By the way, I'm
- 18 highly educated, I have a master's degree in education
- 19 so I was quite qualified to be a substitute teacher.
- 20 Number two is part of problem with being a substitute
- 21 teacher is that you get called a lot of times on short

- 1 notice to show up at this school or that school, and one
- 2 of the things that I have to do is try to be there at a
- 3 reasonable time.
- I had been given two places to call for
- 5 transportation, Wicomico County Transit and a place
- 6 called Go Getters and they supposedly had a grant to
- 7 work together. Now, I didn't hear of this grant for Go
- 8 Getters, by the way, and I've been in this county all my
- 9 life. Okay, so that's another thing that's going on.
- 10 Some people are hiding some funds from somebody
- 11 somewhere.
- One day, and it was the day before Memorial
- 13 Day I got called to show up on Tuesday, which I figured
- 14 was plenty of time to arrange transportation. I called
- 15 Go Getters because I was told that I could arrange them
- 16 at short notice. I called Go Getters first. I told her
- if she could not take me to give me a call. She gave me
- 18 a call 6:30 Tuesday morning, Tuesday morning.
- And by the way, I had to be in Westside
- 20 primary which is out by Nanticoke, gang. I tried to
- 21 call Wicomico Transit. I got because you are a

- 1 wheelchair client we cannot take you today, we can only
- 2 take you on Tuesday and Thursday or Monday, Wednesday,
- 3 Friday, whichever day they told me and it happened to be
- 4 the wrong day.
- 5 So I rode my chair which is generally the way
- 6 I get around in the city, I rode my chair ten miles out,
- 7 ten miles back. I got rained on, number one. Number
- 8 two, I got there late, and I found out a week later I
- 9 got a reprimand from the board of education for being
- 10 late, not to mention the fact that I passed two vans
- 11 from Wicomico County Transit that did not have lifts on
- 12 them that were going out the same direction I was coming
- 13 back. That's against the ADA.
- 14 This county does not realize that we have
- 15 people with disabilities that are capable of being
- 16 professional people. We're not just the mentally
- 17 disabled that aren't capable of doing anything, we're
- just not elderly who just go their doctor's appointments
- 19 and come back, we are in fact people like myself and
- 20 that's gentleman's kid when he grows up if he stays here
- 21 is what he's going to have to put up with. Excuse me,

- 1 for being upset but this is serious. It really upsets
- 2 me that this is going on and I don't want to act like
- 3 I'm some outrageously -- you know, I'm actually a very
- 4 composed person normally but this is ridiculous.
- 5 There are also times when I've tried to get on
- 6 the sidewalk, ramps on one side and not on the other. I
- 7 try to get on the sidewalk and there's no sidewalk to
- 8 get on or I thought there was a sidewalk there and the
- 9 chair has actually tipped over because there is no
- 10 sidewalk there.
- I actually invite the media, by the way,
- 12 anybody who is listening to me if they want to come and
- 13 go through a day with me they're welcome to. That's
- just any day, not even a workday because I'm not working
- in the summertime but that's any day. And I happen to
- 16 volunteer at the library during the summer and all that
- other stuff to keep my teaching skills up because this
- 18 the first job that I've had that is actually a
- 19 professional quality job and I'm not giving it up
- 20 because I can't get from point A to point B.
- By the way, I got stopped by the police on the

- 1 way back who said I didn't have the right to be on the
- 2 road but there was no sidewalk. I'd kind of like to
- 3 know where I was supposed to be. And this is not a
- 4 chair that you can put in a regular car, you need a van
- 5 with a lift.
- And I would also invite some of these people
- 7 that are talking about the groups of people that are
- 8 disenfranchised, despite my education I am one of these
- 9 people. I think that some of us ought to get together
- 10 and really, you know, because if we have accessible
- 11 transportation we can help out the poor and the people
- 12 that can't afford to have cars and we can really do
- something because we're spending too much time worrying
- 14 about this county and that county and the other county
- and since we're being treated like the Eastern Shore we
- 16 ought to think like the Eastern Shore and start dealing
- 17 with what we have to deal with here.
- 18 MR. OKURA: Thank you very much. I think
- 19 we've heard you.
- MS. WEAVER: You'll hear more from me, trust
- 21 me. I have a big mouth.

- 1 MS. PARDO: Thank you.
- 2 MR. OKURA: Next we'd like to hear from
- 3 Christina Annestia and Carlisa Pitts, are you both
- 4 together?
- 5 MS. ANNESTIA: Yes. I'm not really sure of my
- 6 purpose because I don't know. I talk and talk and talk
- 7 to different people and it doesn't seem that I have any
- 8 impact with anybody I talk to. I live here, I'm single,
- 9 and I pay my bills and abide by the law like everybody
- 10 else in the county but yet because a relative of mine is
- 11 with the police department I feel as if I'm watched
- 12 wherever I go.
- And the reason I feel this is because a friend
- of mine, when I moved here I didn't know anybody, a
- 15 friend of mine had a criminal background and is trying
- 16 to get their life on track. Because my family is
- 17 relative to somebody, I'm a relative of somebody in the
- 18 police department it's like they're penalized for that
- 19 because it's kind of like you stay on your side, I stay
- 20 on my side, don't mix with us.
- MR. MOLOCK: By the way, the young man is a

- 1 black man.
- MS. ANNESTIA: One night they came in contact,
- 3 a traffic stop, and ended up arguing, my name being
- 4 brought up because there's personal here, there's
- 5 personal issues. I wasn't there that night, I was on
- 6 the phone with my friend right before it happened. He
- 7 said that he saw my relative working.
- Anyway, they had words with each other and
- 9 he's in jail right now because of a charge of assault
- 10 and because there's three police officers and one person
- and my voice because I wasn't there that night he's
- 12 sitting in jail for three years, for three years and my
- 13 personal life has turned into nothing because my family
- 14 is totally against me now for sticking up for this
- 15 person instead of letting it go.
- My parents don't want to talk to me because I
- 17 should just leave it alone and let him sit there and do
- 18 his time. I think that personal issues shouldn't be
- 19 brought into something that if you have perfect evidence
- 20 than what I to say shouldn't be anything but yet making
- 21 it difficult for my personal life talk to talk about an

- 1 issue kind of keeps people quiet.
- The justice system can't follow me home and
- 3 protect me from emotional issues or my family issues, so
- 4 right now he's sitting in jail because of an assault
- 5 being pushed but yet I've known him for five years and
- 6 never seen him harm anybody.
- 7 MR. DARDEN: We have, that goes along with her
- 8 statement a copy of the Salisbury police department
- 9 report which I assume corroborates what you were just
- 10 saying. Just a quick question about this police report.
- 11 I don't see yeah, it's been notarized and it was filed
- 12 with the police department on the date that it was
- 13 notarized December the 1st, not December the 1st,
- 14 January the 4th, 2001.
- 15 Have you received any response from the police
- 16 department regarding the complaint.
- MS. ANNESTIA: No, I did talk with the -- I
- 18 did talk with the state's attorney before the court
- 19 trial and minute I got done talking with her she
- 20 informed my relative and so therefore it was terrible
- 21 because words that I didn't say were said, like saying

- 1 that I called this person a racist when that didn't come
- 2 out of my mouth but I did say that there must be
- 3 personal issues to bring this all this tension onto one
- 4 person.
- 5 But I did talk to -- and I did talk with the
- 6 internal investigator of the police department and I
- 7 even went out on my own and gave my, let them record
- 8 everything I said about it too but I haven't heard
- 9 anything.
- MR. DARDEN: So you as far as you know this
- 11 has not been fully investigated and your complaint has
- 12 not been resolved.
- 13 MR. MOLOCK: That's what I was making a --
- 14 through of a while ago we had a citizen review board and
- 15 we couldn't -- because I went with her. I've been with
- 16 her ever since the case broke and I think it's purely
- 17 racial. The boy does not -- because now you'll read in
- 18 there if he saw the cop and he told her right on the
- 19 telephone that he saw her brother-in-law.
- MR. DARDEN: Well, regardless of the content
- of the complaint in terms of the process at this point I

- 1 think I'm going to try to find out why she hasn't been
- 2 informed of the progress on the complaint.
- MR. MOLOCK: She was supposed to drop it, that
- 4 was that was supposed to be as far as it went. I went
- 5 to the investigator just like I said before. If you
- 6 investigating the police who are investigating the
- 7 police they got no case.
- MR. DARDEN: I see your point.
- 9 MS. PITTS: And we put an appeal.
- 10 MR. MOLOCK: Now this young lady is on the
- 11 other end, after he got in jail. Now you can go ahead
- 12 and tale.
- MS. PITTS: I'm Carlisa Pitts and I'm his
- 14 mother. And once he got in there I put in the appeal
- paper to appeal the case. They told me to get back with
- 16 them in a couple of days, district court. I called the
- 17 next day and they toll me that his appeal was granted,
- 18 he'll get a new trial in the circuit court and the judge
- 19 put him under a \$100,000 appeal bond so we have -- and
- 20 which if that bond is put up --
- MR. DARDEN: I'm sorry, I hate to interrupt

- 1 you. At that point did he have private representation
- 2 or a court appointed attorney?
- 3 MR. MOLOCK: Private.
- 4 MR. DARDEN: Private representation?
- 5 MS. PITTS: And the judge requested even if
- 6 the bond is posted he cannot get out until his trial.
- 7 We have two properties that we were going to put up and
- 8 the judge said even if it is put up he can't get out, he
- 9 has to sit there until trial.
- MR. DARDEN: Do you remember the name of the
- 11 judge?
- MS. PITTS: Judge Heyman.
- MR. DARDEN: First name, Heyman.
- MS. PITTS: Of Somerset County. He's just a
- 15 sitting-in judge.
- MR. DARDEN: What date was that, about?
- MS. PITTS: When the appeal was put in?
- MR. DARDEN: Yes, when the judge made the
- 19 statement.
- MS. PITTS: It's about, it was a couple of
- 21 days after his sentence, he was sentenced the 29th, the

- 1 31st. MR. DARDEN: And in what court? 2 3 MS. PITTS: District court. 4 MR. DARDEN: And where is that? 5 MR. MOLOCK: Salisbury. 6 MR. DARDEN: Salisbury District Court. MR. MOLOCK: And I'd like say that --7 8 MR. DARDEN: I'm sorry I interrupted you. 9 MS. PITTS: That's okay. 10 MR. MOLOCK: They had the money to put up but 11 they told him he had to sit in jail and I thought any 12 time you made your bond you're supposed to be able to 13 get out but in order to keep him from her the next day 14 they shipped him to Baltimore and the next day after
- 15 that they shipped him to Hagerstown, that's where he's
- 16 got to stay until the appeals process. And I never
- 17 heard of such things in my life but this is the kind of
- 18 things that goes on in Wicomico County.
- MS. ANNESTIA: It's the fact that if he's seen
- 20 with me somebody sees it and reports back. I know this
- 21 probably doesn't sound like anything worth but my

- 1 parents are really protective, they don't live here.
- 2 I'm 23 years old so they like to know what's going on in
- 3 my life too. They know nothing about this man except
- 4 he's not good for me to be around and I shouldn't be
- 5 seen with him so the more influence they hear from
- 6 someone of authority they're not going to listen to me,
- 7 they're going to think that I'm being naive because they
- 8 don't live here. So therefore I get drive-bys at my
- 9 house, I get drive-bys where I work, just to make sure
- 10 I'm not in contact with this person and for some reason
- 11 I have blocks on my phone to not accept phone calls from
- 12 him. I have to try to remove them every day so I heard
- 13 from him Monday. I can have my own phone line --
- MR. DARDEN: All right, thank you.
- MR. OKURA: We'll now hear from Mr. Adrian
- 16 Giorgi. I'm sorry, we're going to have to limit you to
- 17 five minutes too.
- MR. GIORGIO: Sure. Well, my name is Adrian
- 19 Giorgi. I'm working from the governor's commission of
- 20 Hispanic affairs. I came here because I'm interested in
- 21 what the people are talking about. And I would take the

- 1 time to express what's going on. I used to work for the
- 2 federal government for the census bureau. I did all the
- 3 Eastern Shore Hispanic communities. And I find a
- 4 gentleman who lives in the Caroline County. He's
- 5 Hispanic, he doesn't speak English at all. He used to
- 6 be a worker, hard worker. He have an incident with a
- 7 black male. He received ten shots, they shot him at
- 8 least ten times and one of the bullets hit his spine and
- 9 he is in a wheelchair. He is looking for help,
- 10 obviously for some Spanish help, somebody who can help
- 11 him in Spanish because he doesn't have a way to
- 12 communicate.
- 13 Finally, somebody recommend to him and a
- 14 lawyer, this lawyer says that I will help you the best
- 15 way I can. The bottom line is at this time this young
- 16 fellow is receiving 120 bucks month, \$75 are for the
- 17 lawyer and the rest are for him. He lives in a
- 18 wheelchair. He lives in a trailer. He doesn't have any
- 19 facility and he doesn't have the way to live in his own
- 20 and somebody has to help him all the time because he
- 21 doesn't have any resources. Bottom line, I know it's

- 1 not a problem if he can't speak or not but it's a
- 2 reality. I guess I really a high person for the
- 3 Hispanic community and they don't speak English and
- 4 sometimes that is a big barrier in between us and them,
- 5 it's a big problem.
- 6 My point here is I would like to see us, the
- 7 people who have the tools and the rights to speak, just
- 8 trying to be more close to them, you know. Everybody
- 9 can see I came from Hispanico, I have my accent, I'm
- 10 proud about it and, you know, I guess we have to work a
- 11 little bit more closely.
- I cannot give any details because you know as
- 13 a census worker I cannot give names or any information,
- 14 I just bring the case over here just to show a little
- 15 bit more I guess you already know what's going on in the
- 16 Eastern Shore with the Hispanic community. Just I want
- 17 to say thank you for your time. That is my point today.
- 18 Thank you for giving me the chance to say what I want.
- MR. OKURA: Thank you very much. Now we have
- 20 Maria Alvarado. Is she here?
- MR. DARDEN: Who is with you, Maria?

1 MS. ALVARADO: My son, he is sleeping. I used to work also for the Governor's Commission on Hispanic 2 affairs, not anymore, I work someplace else. There is a 3 lot of discrimination in the Eastern Shore. 4 I can tell 5 you that because you used to work African Americans so there is a lot of -- The school system, they don't have 6 7 any Spanish books. I used to go with parents to the 8 schools so I could translate for them. That's another 9 issue, okay. On myself have been discriminated against. I'm a U.S. citizen, so I can offer that. And I'm sorry, 10 11 but this happened to me about three months ago, I quess. 12 I went to a job fair in Salisbury for the stadium and 13 because of my job I went to the state police, they had a 14 table and I went to them and to inquire about the 15 openings they had, not for myself but for the job and I went to them I asked them questions. The clients I have 16 17 they have criminal backgrounds so I have to check for 18 that also because when I go back to the class and tell 19 them they're going to ask what about criminal 20 background. I went to them, asked them questions, they 21 said well this, this and that and I said what about

- 1 criminal background and he said well, on some criminal
- 2 background you're okay but if you have assault that's,
- 3 that can bar you, they're not going to take you anymore,
- 4 you're disqualified. I said okay. I took an
- 5 application, went on to the next table and started
- 6 talking to the other ladies about the openings they had
- 7 and everything. And one of the state police made a
- 8 comment, he said well, we have had some bad ones but
- 9 this is the worst. I didn't tell them who I was. I
- 10 just went to them but that made me feel real bad. I
- 11 went back to them. I work for this company and the
- 12 reason why I came is because I'm looking for openings
- and I give them my business card and I told them if I'm
- 14 going to refer people to you I need to know your fax
- 15 number. I got the booklet they had, the brochure and I
- 16 e-mailed somebody. I told them what happened and
- 17 everything. Nobody has e-mailed me back, nobody has
- 18 called me, anything. And that's what the state of
- 19 Maryland -- so if you think they do this to somebody who
- 20 has an education, I have a bachelor's degree, I have
- 21 taken graduate courses, can you imagine what happens to

- 1 people who have no way of talking to somebody else, no
- 2 education, nothing.
- 3 MS. PARDO: You speak very well English.
- 4 MR. DARDEN: You said that you faxed your
- 5 complaint to the company?
- 6 MS. ALVARADO: Yes, I faxed my complaint to
- 7 Wicomico County department of corrections and nobody has
- 8 e-mailed me back, nobody has called me back, nothing.
- 9 MR. DARDEN: Did you also complain to the
- 10 state human relations commission?
- MS. ALVARADO: No, I haven't.
- MR. DARDEN: Would you mind if we informed the
- 13 representative about your statement here today?
- MS. ALVARADO: Sure, I don't mind.
- MR. DARDEN: We'll do that.
- MR. ODOMS: Did you file a complaint with the
- 17 NAACP?
- MS. ALVARADO: No, I haven't. I e-mailed them
- 19 with my work e-mail to let them know who I was and
- 20 everything else but nobody has called me back.
- 21 MR. ODOMS: Do we have NAACP individual here

- 1 for -- you should talk to them before you leave this
- 2 evening, okay?
- 3 MS. ALVARADO: Okay.
- 4 REV. SANDS: Is there an advocacy group of any
- 5 kind for Hispanic people on the Eastern Shore.
- 6 MS. ALVARADO: No.
- 7 MR. ODOMS: None whatsoever.
- MS. WEAVER: Excuse me, you might want to see
- 9 this. I don't know what they can do but I got this at
- 10 the festival, Salisbury festival and if you don't know
- 11 about them you should. It's Latino Amidos [phonetic]
- 12 and I don't know what they do as far as legal help but
- 13 they may be able to get you some support.
- MS. ALVARADO: That's what I can tell you.
- MR. DARDEN: All right.
- MR. OKURA: Thank you so much. Laura Diaz?
- MR. DARDEN: Before her I have Leila Krousse.
- 18 MS. KROUSSE: Krousse.
- MR. OKURA: And then Laura Diaz.
- MS. KROUSSE: This has been a day. I wanted
- 21 to cry, I wanted to jump sometimes, I don't know.

- 1 First, we don't have enough time to tell you but I have
- 2 been here 15 years, my husband is African American, I'm
- 3 a native of Puerto Rico, I'm a U.S. citizen and I have
- 4 been discriminated for many reasons. I have worked with
- 5 the state, I am now a commissioner, the delegate for the
- 6 Eastern Shore, the entire Eastern Shore for the
- 7 Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs. I deal with
- 8 many issues, I have worked in various places that have
- 9 allowed me to see firsthand and to witness
- 10 discrimination. I have been able to advise some of them
- 11 to some point, maybe not enough where they have got the
- 12 help and I just, you know, if I only knew then what I
- 13 know today I would have been able to help a lot more
- 14 people.
- My main complaint today is with social
- 16 security administration. Because I deal with a lot of
- immigrants and a lot of migrant farm workers in the
- 18 Eastern Shore and a lot of them are Hispanics and many
- of them are U.S. citizens and many of them are legal.
- 20 And people think they're here hiding, they're not. Many
- of them have documents and because culture they many

- 1 times do not speak, they keep things at home. And it
- 2 used to be like that many years ago for many Americans
- 3 too because I learn through my life here in the United
- 4 States.
- 5 The Social Security Administration issued a
- 6 social security card to a gentleman who had no
- 7 immigration status but is light skinned, fair skinned,
- 8 light color eyes and Anglo wife who spoke very well for
- 9 him, even though he had a heavy accent like mine. Two
- 10 Hispanics, I go with them to the social security
- 11 administration with their work employment of three
- 12 station with a letter from INS, appointment letter for
- 13 the fingerprint. They question their immigration
- 14 status. They are asked for birth certificates, birth
- 15 certificate translation. I do that gladly and I do it
- 16 for free.
- 17 Also learned Talbot County with TBS not many
- 18 are getting temporary protective status from the Central
- 19 American countries like Salvador and Honduras because of
- 20 the earthquakes and hurricanes that happen and they are
- 21 getting status but there are questions also because

- 1 they're Hispanic. But there it is, and I'm talking
- 2 about two different offices in the Eastern Shore,
- 3 Wicomico County, Talbot County. Social security
- 4 administration, I'm in Cambridge no, Talbot, it's
- 5 Dorchester County which it covers Talbot also.
- 6 Ladies and gentlemen I have worked in the
- 7 entire state of Maryland. I know every corner rural and
- 8 city where Hispanics are. I have done outreach for
- 9 migrant seasonal farmworkers. I have worked by myself
- in this area for many years and there are a lot of
- 11 people that help Hispanics for a fee or for something
- 12 else. I have been an advocate of the Hispanics and
- immigrants in general, it doesn't have to be Hispanics,
- 14 anybody, and just because I speak Spanish and a little
- 15 bit of English doesn't mean I only help Hispanics. I
- 16 didn't want to mention but I do work for Catholic
- 17 Charities and I do immigration cases, I'm outside this.
- 18 I'm just mentioning it for the record that I'm not here
- 19 as Catholic Charities. I'm here with the Governor's
- 20 Commission on Hispanic Affairs. And I have worked in
- 21 many areas with immigrants. And I didn't know about

- 1 your board, I didn't know about the Governor's
- 2 Commission for Hispanic Affairs for many years. And I
- 3 have been, I think I'm on my fourth term, to the
- 4 Hispanic Affairs. I didn't want it, they asked me three
- 5 more months because we can't find nobody else in the
- 6 Eastern Shore to volunteer. I volunteered three months
- 7 and I got three years from the governor. I don't know,
- 8 I learned about it when I got that paper at home, it was
- 9 like okay, three more years. I gladly will help my
- 10 community but I need more people. Like the lady said it
- 11 was not in the media, I did not learn about it, I got
- 12 half a page of my mail and I called the office, the
- 13 staff, and I somebody faxed me at my job the information
- 14 and I was able to disseminate. I was sorry that -- were
- 15 not here present earlier today because they are people
- in the community that have been working. I'm only one
- voice here today and I wish more Hispanics and more
- immigrants would express their voices and be heard. I
- 19 thank you for giving me the opportunity but I want you
- 20 to take this seriously with the social security
- 21 administration.

- 1 MR. OKURA: Thank you very much.
- 2 MR. DARDEN: Did you leave me a card?
- 3 MS. KROUSSE: Yes, sir. I'm Leila
- 4 Krousse-Pender.
- 5 MR. DARDEN: Oh yes, here is it
- 6 MR. OKURA: Laura Diaz.
- 7 MS. DIAZ: Good evening. Thank you for the
- 8 opportunity to be here. My name is Laura Diaz, I'm from
- 9 the Governor's Commission for Hispanic Affairs. I'll be
- 10 brief due to the little time we have.
- I have three cases. And one of them is my
- 12 fiance. He is an American-born citizen, he's a veteran,
- and because of these facial features, he looks very
- 14 Hispanic he's being discriminated. He's been
- 15 hospitalized six times in the past seven months. They
- don't know if it was heart attack or a stroke, one of
- 17 them seems to be a stroke because half of his body was
- 18 paralyzed. Until this day last Tuesday was the last
- 19 time he was in the emergency. They still cannot find
- 20 out what's wrong with him because he looks Hispanic.
- 21 Excuse me, are we all human beings, just not what color

- 1 what are, we should be treated the same way.
- 2 Another case is myself when I was in college.
- 3 I have a learning disability and I was trying to take
- 4 some of the classes and I stated to one of the teachers
- 5 that she was going too fast and could she slow down and
- 6 she told me you know, you don't belong here then. She
- 7 really hurt my feelings because I was trying to be a
- 8 productive citizen and I think should be given the same
- 9 opportunity.
- 10 Another case is here from the Eastern Shore.
- 11 I've been called several times from Hispanics from
- 12 centers asking me to refer them to a hospital in
- 13 Baltimore area because the hospitals here in the Eastern
- 14 Shore denies services because for them being Hispanics.
- 15 And I went to visit this person. I took pictures of
- 16 this person, she's from Cuba. The other I receive
- 17 calls, a call from Baltimore City from a buy who was
- 18 looking for a rehab for drug addiction. It took us
- 19 quite a long time to find out some center that offers
- 20 Hispanic services or counseling.
- 21 I'm asking to this board to please consider

- 1 putting key employees in all these fields because the
- 2 lack of representation in the Hispanic community because
- 3 of the barriers we don't, because they don't have a
- 4 Spanish speaking counselor or drug addition they cannot
- 5 serve the population and that's not fair. And because
- 6 you don't know how to express yourself you're not going
- 7 to be given the same treatment as another person, that's
- 8 not right.
- 9 Other things is that how Hispanics are being
- 10 discriminated because of their national origin. Either
- 11 from health services, as I explained earlier, to
- 12 language lots of various lawyers are charging a
- 13 tremendous amount of money to Hispanics because they
- 14 cannot speak the language and that's not fair. We all
- work hard to earn our living. And they know they don't
- 16 qualify for the -- life amount or whatever they're
- 17 applying and still they're charging and they shouldn't
- 18 do that.
- 19 Exploitation with the farm workers. Last
- 20 month I receive an e-mail at work and they were saying
- 21 stating something about Taco Bell that they paid the

- 1 Mexicans \$50 after they pick two tons of tomatoes,
- 2 imagine, \$50 and that's not right.
- 3 Prostitution, how they exploit and they force
- 4 people. I learned so many during the nine months I have
- 5 been on the Governor's Commission for Hispanic Affairs I
- 6 cannot believe it. It's like we need to join forces, we
- 7 need to do something and help our communities, either
- 8 black, Hispanic, orientals, whatever, we need to help
- 9 each other. We need to find solutions. Don't let
- 10 people exploit our brothers and sisters. Let's do
- 11 something about it. I don't want to be here, have a
- 12 charge and a title, I want to do something, I would like
- 13 to make a difference. That's what I have to say, thank
- 14 you.
- MR. OKURA: Thank you very much. Muchos
- 16 gracias.
- MS. PARDO: I have a question. The first case
- 18 that individual that is a veteran, American citizen. He
- 19 speaks English.
- MS. DIAZ: He's an American citizen. He
- 21 barely, he looks Hispanic.

- 1 MS. PARDO: So in health issues that you're
- 2 talking about you're finding that is it just substandard
- 3 and undiagnosed.
- 4 MS. DIAZ: Yes.
- 5 MS. PARDO: Just assuming that he doesn't
- 6 speak just because he looks.
- 7 MS. DIAZ: And he has the Mexican look, the
- 8 mustache and stuff like that. The doctors all the tests
- 9 are negative and I say doctor, if this is psychological,
- does a person get paralyzed half of his body because of
- 11 stress or any other panic attack? Well, I cannot answer
- 12 you science hasn't developed this much. Come one, six
- 13 times taken in the ambulance, six times being
- 14 hospitalized and still they cannot figure out it.
- 15 That's not right.
- 16 MR. OKURA: Thank you very much. We have
- 17 another name?
- 18 MR. RYAN: I was the very first one to put my
- 19 name on, I don't want to be discriminated against.
- MR. OKURA: Your name?
- 21 MR. RYAN: Robert Ryan.

- 1 MR. DARDEN: You know what happened, Mr. Ryan,
- 2 I was calling names and you must have stepped out of the
- 3 room because I called Robert Ryan several times and when
- 4 you didn't answer I thought you'd gone, I'm sorry. Your
- 5 name is first and I called you.
- 6 MR. RYAN: I'll try to be brief. Let me first
- 7 start off it is very interesting listening to the
- 8 various stories. I feel privileged in that I am
- 9 somewhat immune to the various things that happen to
- 10 people in my community. I don't want to bore you. I
- 11 had some statements here about Martin Luther King, what
- 12 he would want and he basically said he just wanted to
- 13 tell us what we have. Civil rights is based on the bill
- of rights and that's not quite in force and maybe about
- 15 20 or 30 percent. Racism is here, very much so in this
- 16 community. I lived in Fayetteville, North Carolina and
- 17 quite frankly, Fayetteville, North Carolina was better
- 18 than here and they still had their slave block up in the
- 19 middle of town. It is incredible. But I used to go by
- 20 it every day and think come on, this is historic? But
- 21 the thing is is what tools does racism have to utilize.

- 1 And one of the biggest tools that racism have is the war
- 2 on drugs. It is mentioned throughout some of the
- 3 previous testimony bits and pieces, you know, tangential
- 4 segments of it but the war on drugs is a war on
- 5 Americans. It's really a war on Americans of color.
- I have several documents here. You've talked
- 7 about fact finding I've got a couple of facts for you,
- 8 I'll leave this with us at your discretion. I wish I
- 9 knew more about this Commission I would have prepared a
- 10 much more intelligent statements and more facts and I
- 11 think I'll follow up if you give me that address.
- I started off I'm going to end up my talk
- 13 here, I started off saying I'm immune to some degree.
- 14 Well, that's not quite true. My son got wrapped up in
- 15 this and this is where I ended up. My son was one of
- 16 those Americans, one of those white Americans that skews
- 17 the statistics for making the blacks, if you look at the
- 18 number of blacks arrested, prosecuted, in jail, the
- 19 whole bit, the numbers just go up and up and up. Well,
- 20 my son is one of those that helped that statistic
- 21 because we fought and we won and it was so outrageous

- 1 what the Salisbury police department did it was
- 2 incredible. I felt like suing them because they had
- 3 manufactured evidence and lied in court and rather than
- 4 suing them, I'm not that kind of person, I started to
- 5 get into politics and pushing but the biggest cost to my
- 6 family is my wife. She's a good woman, she doesn't
- 7 trust them, my son doesn't trust them, and that's a
- 8 horrible cost. Thank you.
- 9 MR. OKURA: Thank you very much.
- MR. DARDEN: Mr. Ryan, here's the address and,
- 11 you got one of those? You send that back to me, would
- 12 you. If you can give it to me now.
- MR. RYAN: I didn't fill it out.
- MR. DARDEN: Otherwise I won't know how to
- 15 contact you.
- MR. RYAN: All right, I did leave my card.
- 17 MR. DARDEN: That helps.
- MR. OKURA: We appreciate all of the testimony
- 19 that we've heard. We appreciate you staying and
- 20 providing us with this information and again, the reason
- 21 we came to Salisbury, the reason we came to the Eastern

- 1 Shore, is that we expected and we knew from the history
- 2 that there was a lot of discrimination here but now we
- 3 have proof and you've provided that kind of proof so we
- 4 appreciate your appearing today and spending the time
- 5 with us. I'm sorry we didn't have more time, we could
- 6 spend another three, four hours if we had to. But again
- 7 I want to thank everybody for their patience and being
- 8 with us this afternoon.
- 9 MR. LEE: Would you allow one question. In
- 10 terms of your findings out of this discussion here today
- 11 will you share them with us?
- MR. OKURA: Yes, we will but we will have
- 13 reports out because we're working on reports of previous
- 14 such --
- MR. DARDEN: Let me explain quickly. This is
- one of three forums that we're holding around the state.
- 17 Our plan is to produce at the end of the third a report
- 18 that covers all three. The next one we've just decided
- 19 won't occur until April, 2002. It's possible given that
- 20 time frame that we might have an interim report that
- 21 would cover this one and the previous one. One reason

- 1 that I tried to get contact information from everyone is
- 2 so that we can develop a master mailing list and then
- 3 you'll get a copy of the report using that list. And in
- 4 addition to that if you want to, if you have additional
- 5 names that you want to add to our mailing list send
- 6 those to me as well with a little note indicating you'd
- 7 like to be on the mailing list or if you have further
- 8 information that you want to add for our record. You
- 9 may do that as well within the next couple of weeks.
- MR. BLACK: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to
- 11 thank the Commission on behalf of the Talbot County
- 12 branch as well for being here and for those of you who
- 13 like me might be interested in a little bit of
- 14 historical trivia with regard to the Commission it was
- 15 back in 1965 when the U.S. Civil Rights Commission held
- 16 its first hearing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. At
- 17 the time it was up in Easton, Maryland and it was
- 18 arranged by then a young dynamic member of the civil
- 19 rights Commission. He was a staff, a staff member,
- 20 named Mr. Doug Sands.
- MR. OKURA: Thank you.

Community Forum

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                  (Whereupon, at 7:20 p.m. the forum was
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     concluded.)
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