

Ohio Civil Rights Commission

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“WHAT NEXT?” OHIO SUMMIT TO JOIN CITY LEADERSHIP AND LEGISLATORS TO ADVANCE A STATEWIDE EFFORT

Columbus, OH (September 13, 2005) - The Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) is pleased to announce it's **“What Next, Ohio?” Summit 2005**. “This event is a follow-up to the *“Achieving the American Dream: The Next 40 Years ’64 Civil Rights Act, ’68 Fair Housing Act, 2004 – What next?”* held in April 2004,” said G. Michael Payton, OCRC Executive Director. “Since the April 2004 forum, OCRC has facilitated roundtable discussions with various community leaders and activists to discuss the crosscutting issues that affect minorities and the poor in homeownership, education, healthcare, economic development, and civic engagement because grassroots people are the real change agents,” he said. Between Fall 2004, and Summer 2005 “What Next” discussions were held in Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Oberlin and Akron with the mission of developing short- and long-term plans of action with the communities to accomplish by working together.

“What Next, Ohio?” Summit 2005 will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Columbus/Worthington, 175 Hutchinson Avenue – Columbus, Ohio, from 9am to 4pm. The day’s program will kick off with a keynote address from John A. Powell, Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University.

Professor John A. Powell, is an internationally recognized authority in the areas of civil rights, civil liberties, and issues relating to race, ethnicity, poverty and the law. He has written extensively on a number of issues including racial justice and regionalism, concentrated poverty and urban sprawl, the link between housing and school segregation, opportunity-based housing, gentrification, disparities in the criminal justice system, voting rights, affirmative action in the United States, South Africa and Brazil, racial and ethnic identity and current demographic trends.

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Also facilitating discussion will be Professor Vincene Verdun of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, who spoke at OCRC's April 2004 event on housing and education disparities. Her research has focused on critical race theory, including reparations to African Americans. Professor Verdun is the advisor to the Moritz College of Law Black Law Student Association and is a participant in the W. K. Kellogg Foundation initiative, Leadership for Institutional Change and is a member at large on the Ohio State University American Association of University Professors.

Space is still available. To register, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at 1-888-278-7101 or visit our website at www.crc.ohio.gov.

The OCRC receives and investigates charges of discrimination in employment, housing, credit and higher education on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, country of national origin age, ancestry, disability and families with children.

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