



## Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

### **Copyright Notice:**

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit [www.mnhs.org/copyright](http://www.mnhs.org/copyright).

# THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROJECT

## PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION FOR: SPONSORS

The Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) is excited to partner with you as we anticipate the next successful round of Community Circle Conversations. As a sponsor, we invite you to thoughtfully review the Pledge of Participation form, carefully noting each responsibility and your capacity to complete the vital sponsor roles, ensuring the full success of this project.

### Responsibilities of Sponsors:

1. Recruit between 8 and 15 people for each community circle.
2. Arrange a meeting space and time for each community circle or recruit participants for a designated time and location.
3. Distribute discussion materials to each participant.
4. Promote the program by any means possible, including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
5. Participate in evaluation process of community circle.
6. Provide childcare and transportation services as needed by participant.
7. Provide hospitality services for participants, ensuring light snacks and beverages, writing board and nametags at each meeting.
8. Keep records of participation for your Community Circle, complete with address and phone listings.
9. Designate a scribe for each Community Circle, capturing in written record the highlights of each conversation.

EHEP will work closely along side you, providing:

- Discussion Guide
- Trained facilitator (and training to your facilitators)
- Informative background materials
- Calendar of related events
- Information clearinghouse for pairing organizations
- Action Forum to connect citizens with service and action opportunities

All community Circles will be invited to take part in a Citizens Summit to be co-sponsored with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio. Results will be shared with legislators and local officials.

Name of sponsoring organization or agency that you represent:	RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC.
Your name: (Please Print)	PAUL H. FRENCH
Your address:	450 SYNDICATE STREET
Your telephone & fax:	(651) 645-6445 or 603-5811 FAX 645-2253
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand the responsibilities of Sponsors and commit my organization to this project. This commitment is based on approval from our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

In addition, my organization can provide the following if necessary:

- Translator(s)
  Media equipment  
 Volunteers for Citizens Summit
  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Paul H. French  
Signature

12/17/98  
Date

Return to:  
Dick Little  
Education & Housing Equity Project  
2211 Riverside Ave CB 185  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
tel: (612) 330-1505 fax: (612) 330-1507

1999 Conversations at the Crossroads

Site Commitment

Sponsoring Organization: RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC.

Contact: PAUL H. FRENCH (651)603-5811, PFRENCH@RAMSEYACTPROG.ORG

We will provide space for Conversations at the Crossroads Circles as follows:

Location

Dates & Times

Name of location: BIGELOW BLDC

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 450 SYNDICATE ST

City: ST. PAUL, MN

Dates: TO BE DETERMINED

Phone: (651)603-5811

On Site Contact: PAUL H. FRENCH

Name of location: \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

On Site Contact: \_\_\_\_\_



Division of Community Change Serving Ramsey & Washington Counties

Paul H. French Community Issues Developer and Member, MCAA Legislative Rules Committee

450 North Syndicate Street - Suite 007 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104-4127 Tel: 651-603-5811 Fax: 651-645-2253

[checked] EHEP may assign participants to this/these locations. HOPE TO FILL

\_\_\_\_ We, as sponsors, will fill 8-15 places per circle, so please don't assign participants.

By January 15, 1999 Fax to 612-330-1507 or mail to: EHEP, Augsburg College, CB185, 2211 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55454

12/31/98



RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC.

# FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 01/15/99 TIME: 10:30

TO: DICK LITTLE

COMPANY: EHEP

FAX #: 612-330-1507 PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC. - (651)603-5811

FAX #: 645-2253 PHONE #: 645-6445

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Original will follow.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** The document(s) in this fax transmission may contain confidential information which may be legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the intended recipient above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any in reliance on the contents of this telecopied information, except its direct delivery to the intended recipient above, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please notify us immediately by telephone to arrange for return of the original document(s) to us.

450 N. Syndicate Street, St. Paul, MN 55104 • Telephone: 612-645-6445 • Fax: 612-603-5994

For 30 years "Mobilizing Community Resources to Reduce Poverty in Ramsey and Washington Counties."  
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

# Site Commitment

Sponsoring Organization: RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC.

Contact: PAUL H. FRENCH (651) 603-5811, PFRENCH@RAMSEYACTIONPROGRAMS.ORG  
Name Phone E-mail

We will provide space for Conversations at the Crossroads Circles as follows:

**Location**

**Dates & Times**

Name of location: BIGFLOW BLDG Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 450 SYNDICATE ST

City: ST. PAUL, MN

Dates: TO BE DETERMINED

Phone: (651) 603-5811

On Site Contact: PAUL H. FRENCH

Name of location: \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

On Site Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

EHEP may assign participants to this/these locations.

We, as sponsors, will fill 8-15 places per circle, so please don't assign participants.

By January 15, 1999  
Fax to 612-330-1507 or mail to:  
EHEP, Augsburg College, CB185, 2211 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55454

CITIES AT WORK COMMUNITY CIRCLE DIALOGUES  
**Training Opportunities**

January 22  
5:30-9:00 p.m.

**Orientation to Community Circles for facilitators & co-facilitators**  
Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution  
*All facilitators and co-facilitators are required to attend.*  
*(Scribes are also welcome to attend if interested.)*

January 23

9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Understanding Community and Institutional Racism**

Nadine & Jim Addington

*This is an optional training available to all sponsor contacts, facilitators, co-facilitators and scribes.*

Both sessions will be held at Christensen Center, Augsburg College. Free parking will be available.

For more information, call Barbara Blackstone at 651-297-7200, Mariann Johnson at 612-872-7959, or Jan Frankman at 612-935-5158.

.....  
**Yes, I am interested in being a co-facilitator or scribe for a Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogue.**

**I will attend the January 22 orientation session.**

**I will attend the January 23 Understanding Community and Institutional Racism workshop.**

Name PAUL H. FRENCH % RAP, INC.

Address 450 SYNDICATE STREET, SUITE 7

Phone (651) 603-5811 Fax (651) 645-2253 E-mail PFRENCH @

ST. PAUL, MN 55104

RAMSEYACTIONPROGRAMS.ORG

Please return to Barbara Blackstone, Fax 651-297-7200

Office of Dispute Resolution, 340 Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

PLEASE  
ADD

SCRIBE  
TO

→ MAKILYN SEGREST c/o RAP, INC.  
450 Syndicate Street ST PAUL, MN 55104  
651-645-2253

# THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROJECT

## PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION FOR: SPONSORS

The Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) is excited to partner with you as we anticipate the next successful round of Community Circle Conversations. As a sponsor, we invite you to thoughtfully review the Pledge of Participation form, carefully noting each responsibility and your capacity to complete the vital sponsor roles, ensuring the full success of this project.

### Responsibilities of Sponsors:

1. Recruit between 8 and 15 people for each community circle.
2. Arrange a meeting space and time for each community circle or recruit participants for a designated time and location.
3. Distribute discussion materials to each participant.
4. Promote the program by any means possible, including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
5. Participate in evaluation process of community circle.
6. Provide childcare and transportation services as needed by participant.
7. Provide hospitality services for participants, ensuring light snacks and beverages, writing board and nametags at each meeting.
8. Keep records of participation for your Community Circle, complete with address and phone listings.
9. Designate a scribe for each Community Circle, capturing in written record the highlights of each conversation.

EHEP will work closely along side you, providing:

- Discussion Guide
- Trained facilitator (and training to your facilitators)
- Informative background materials
- Calendar of related events
- Information clearinghouse for pairing organizations
- Action Forum to connect citizens with service and action opportunities

All community Circles will be invited to take part in a Citizens Summit to be co-sponsored with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio. Results will be shared with legislators and local officials.

Name of sponsoring organization or agency that you represent:	RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC.
Your name: (Please Print)	PAUL H. FRENCH
Your address:	450 SYNDICATE STREET
Your telephone & fax:	(651) 645-6445 or 603-5811 FAX 645-2253
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand the responsibilities of Sponsors and commit my organization to this project. This commitment is based on approval from our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

In addition, my organization can provide the following if necessary:

- Translator(s)
  Media equipment  
 Volunteers for Citizens Summit
  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Paul H. French

12/17/98

Signature

Date

Return to:  
 Dick Little  
 Education & Housing Equity Project  
 2211 Riverside Ave CB 185  
 Minneapolis, MN 55404  
 tel: (612) 330-1505 fax: (612) 330-1507



# FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 12/17/98 TIME: 2:10 p

TO: DICK LITTLE

COMPANY: THE COMMUNITY CIRCLES PROJECT

FAX #: (612) 330-1507 PHONE #: 330-1505

FROM: PAUL H. FRENCH

RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC. - Energy Assistance

FAX #: 645-2253

PHONE #: 645-6445

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 2

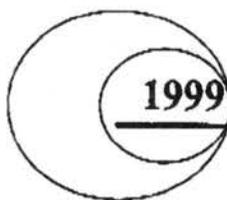
MESSAGE: SEE YOU AT THE NEXT  
PLANNING MEETING

Original will follow.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** The document(s) in this fax transmission may contain confidential information which may be legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the intended recipient above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any in reliance on the contents of this telecopied information, except its direct delivery to the intended recipient above, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please notify us immediately by telephone to arrange for return of the original document(s) to us.

450 N. Syndicate Street, St. Paul, MN 55104 ■ Telephone: 612-645-6445 ■ Fax: 612-603-5994

For 30 years "Mobilizing Community Resources to Reduce Poverty in Ramsey and Washington Counties."  
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



# 1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues

## Sponsorship Commitment

Sponsoring Organization: RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC.

Contact: PAUL H. FRENCH (651) 603-5811 (651) 645-2253

Name Phone E-mail FAX  
PFRENCH @ RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS. ORG.

Mailing Address: 450 SYNDICATE ST., ST. PAUL, MIN. 55104-4127

We will provide space for a *Cities at Work* Community Circle Dialogue as follows:

Location

Name of location: BICELOW BLDG

Address: 450 SYNDICATE ST.

City: ST. PAUL, MIN. 55104-4127

On Site Contact: PAUL H. FRENCH

Scribe: MARILYN

Co-facilitator (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and Times

Day of Week: TUES Time: 9:30 A TO 11:30 A

Dates: FEB 9, 16, 23 &

MARCH 2, 9

PENDING

<input type="checkbox"/>	We will be able to provide a diverse group of 8 - 15 participants per Circle (not more than half of the group from any one racial/ethnic background).
-or-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	We will need assistance to insure the diversity of our group. <u>TBD</u>

Call 659-6031

*Paul H. French*

By February 1, 1999  
Please fax or mail to Barb Rose.  
Fax: (651) 642-2088  
Wilder Foundation, 919 Lafond Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104



RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC.

# FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 01/27/99

TIME: 11:00 A

TO: PAM

COMPANY: EHEP

FAX #: 612-330-1507

PHONE #: 612-330-1505

FROM: PAUL H. FRENCH

RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC. -

FAX #: 645-2253

PHONE #: 645-6445-603-5811

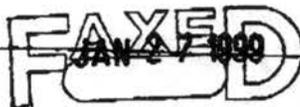
NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 2

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Original will follow.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** The document(s) in this fax transmission may contain confidential information which may be legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the intended recipient above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any in reliance on the contents of this telecopied information, except its direct delivery to the intended recipient above, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please notify us immediately by telephone to arrange for return of the original document(s) to us.

450 N. Syndicate Street, St. Paul, MN 55104 • Telephone: 612-643-6443 • Fax: 612-603-5994

For 30 years "Mobilizing Community Resources to Reduce Poverty in Ramsey and Washington Counties."  
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer



# FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 01/15/99

TIME: 1:00p

TO: DICK LITTLE

COMPANY: EHEP

FAX #: 612-330-1507 PHONE #: 612-330-1505

FROM: PAUL H. FRENCH

RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC. -

FAX #: 645-2253

PHONE #: ~~645-6445~~ 603-5811

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 5

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Original will follow.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** The document(s) in this fax transmission may contain confidential information which may be legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the intended recipient above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any in reliance on the contents of this telecopied information, except its direct delivery to the intended recipient above, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please notify us immediately by telephone to arrange for return of the original document(s) to us.



January 15, 1999

Ramsey Action Programs, Inc.  
Community Change Division  
450 Syndicate Street, Suite 7  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104-4127

Dear Community Advocates and Neighbors:

Hello. I am Paul H. French, Community Issues Developer, Ramsey Action Programs, Inc. (RAP). RAP, Inc., in association with the Wilder Foundation's "Cities at Work" initiative invite you, your constituents or appropriate staff member(s) to participate in the upcoming Midway "Community Circle Dialogues". Information on the advent of these dialogues is enclosed. We want to solicit a diverse group of people that represent a comprehensive range of local responsive parties and communities. Five meetings will be convened between February 1 and March 27, 1999, at the Bigelow Building, 450 Syndicate Street (adjacent from the Midway Target Store), St. Paul. We will select of 8-15 participants from the reply's we receive. Those individuals selected will negotiate meeting schedules. The discussions will center on the housing crisis in the metro area. More importantly, "Cities At Work" will employ input from the circles to devise and implement short and long term solutions for eliminating the absence of affordable housing in our communities. Subsequently, all the "Cities at Works" sponsors will compile their meeting outcomes and results and present it during four "Call To Action" forums between March and November 1999. (Please refer to the "Cities at Work 1999" insert)

The absence of affordable housing in the Twin Cities Metro area is at crisis proportions. Many of us who are committed to helping the underprivileged, particularly during this period of welfare to work, know it is not enough to speak about this issue. A call to action must be voiced and acted upon. That is what this initiative is all about. The underprivileged can also help them by being a part of the dialogue; no one knows the story of the housing crisis better than they do.

I hope you can meet the challenge of commitment and would like to be part of the "Cities at Work" Midway Circle. Please reply to the undersigned by mail, telephone (651) 603-5811 or facsimile (651) 645-2253 on or before January 25, 1999. Thank you. Have a good day!

Sincerely,

Paul H. French, Community Issues Developer,  
Ramsey Action Programs, Incorporated

Cc: Dale C. Anderson, Executive Director, Ramsey Action Programs, Inc.  
Barb Rose, The Wilder Foundation

Enclosures (3)  
Phf/ms

450 North Syndicate Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104 ■ Telephone: 612-645-6445 ■ Fax: 612-645-2253

"Mobilizing Community Resources to Reduce Poverty in Ramsey and Washington Counties."  
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

FARE For All  
331-6889

Head Start  
645-6445

Senior Dining  
645-6701

Meals on Wheels  
645-6701

Energy Assistance,  
Ramsey County  
645-6470

Energy Assistance,  
Washington County  
738-3943

Energy Conservation  
Division  
482-8260

Family Services,  
Ramsey County  
645-6470

Family Services,  
Washington County  
738-1910

Success for  
Men of Color  
645-6631

Designing Changes  
645-6584

Target Area Advisory  
Councils  
645-6445

Volunteer Coordination  
645-6445

## **Cities at Work 1999**

### ***Unleashing the Power of Our Community A Dialogue on Race, Connection, and Commitments***

---

We are at a crossroads. The faces of Saint Paul are changing daily, becoming more varied and diverse. Our dramatically changing community can be our strength and vitality, or can divide us into competing identities and interests. Much is at stake. If we harness the potential of all our citizens, we can create economic growth, keep our young people engaged and our neighborhoods thriving.

Our increasing cultural and economic diversity, with its promise and challenges, touches every aspect of our lives - families, relationships, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and the city as a whole. In order to make improvements in our neighborhoods, communities and city, we have to work in partnership across cultures, economic levels and other lines that often divide us. Our community will weaken unless we can learn to work effectively with people and groups of different backgrounds, interests and approaches. The 1999 *Cities At Work* forum series brings all sectors of our community together to learn from each other how we can unleash the incredible power and potential of our city's diversity.

*Cities At Work* is an inter-racial, multi-neighborhood, collaborative effort made up of individuals, government, neighborhoods, funders, community organizations and faith-based groups committed to public dialogue on topics important to Saint Paul's future. The 1999 *Cities At Work* forum series explores how Saint Paul can more effectively come together as a community to respond to demographic and cultural trends that will create an even more diverse St. Paul over the next 10-20 years.

We will explore:

- How assumptions and past experiences create racial and ethnic tension
- Why discovering what we have in common is more important than focusing on differences
- How youth view diversity, and what we can learn from them
- A new definition of our community where everyone's contributions are welcome and used
- How Saint Paul can cultivate an environment that makes it an attractive place to live, work, and do business

The 1999 *Cities at Work* forum series focuses on ways we can address and embrace the impact of these changes both as individuals and as a community. The forum series stimulates dialogue among neighbors, businesses, community-based organizations and associations, nonprofit agencies, faith-based groups, policymakers, and educators as we acknowledge the changing face of our community.

#### ***Forum Series Events***

Between March and November 1999, a series of events will bring people together to learn, share ideas and make commitments for future action as a community. Forum series events include:

#### **Public Forums**

Four public forums between March and November 1999 will be the centerpiece events in the series. Each forum will examine the impact and potential of our increasingly multicultural community. Each forum will highlight a different aspect of Saint Paul's diversity, and will utilize a mixture of audience participation activities, drama, presentation and discussion to stimulate learning and discovery. The forums will feature ethnic food and locations in different neighborhood gathering places around the city.



## A COMPARISON OF DIALOGUE AND DEBATE

---

Dialogue is collaborative: two or more sides work together toward common understanding.

*Debate is oppositional: two sides oppose each other and attempt to prove each other wrong.*

In dialogue, finding common ground is the goal.

*In debate, winning is the goal.*

In dialogue, one listens to the other side(s) in order to understand, find meaning, and find agreement.

*In debate, one listens to the other side in order to find flaws and to counter its arguments.*

Dialogue enlarges and possibly changes a participant's point of view.

*Debate affirms a participant's own point of view.*

Dialogue reveals assumptions for reevaluation.

*Debate defends assumptions as truth.*

Dialogue causes introspection on one's own position.

*Debate causes critique of the other position.*

Dialogue opens the possibility of reaching a better solution than any of the original solutions.

*Debate defends one's own positions as the best solution and excludes other solutions.*

Dialogue creates an open-minded attitude: an openness to being wrong and an openness to change.

*Debate creates a closed-minded attitude, a determination to be right.*

In dialogue, one submits one's best thinking, knowing that other peoples' reflections will help improve it rather than destroy it.

*In debate, one's submits one's best thinking and defends it against challenge to show that it is right.*

Dialogue calls for temporarily suspending one's beliefs.

*Debate calls for investing wholeheartedly in one's beliefs.*

In dialogue, one searches for basic agreements.

*In debate, one searches for glaring differences.*

In dialogue, one searches for strengths in the other positions.

*In debate, one searches for flaws and weaknesses in the other position.*

Dialogue involves a real concern for the other person and seeks to not alienate or offend.

*Debate involves a countering of the other position without focusing on feelings or relationship and often belittles or deprecates the other person.*

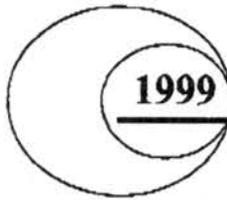
Dialogue assumes that many people have pieces of the answer and that together they can put them into a workable solution.

*Debate assumes that there is a right answer and that someone has it.*

Dialogue remains open-ended.

*Debate implies a conclusion.*

*Adapted from a paper prepared by Shelley Berman, which was based on discussions of the Dialogue Group of the Boston Chapter of Educators for Social Responsibility (ESR). Other members included Lucile Burt, Dick Mayo-Smith, Lally Stowell, and Gene Thompson. For more information on ESR's programs and resources using dialogue as a tool for dealing with controversial issues, call the national ESR office at (617) 492-1764*



## 1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues

---

### **What are the Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues?**

---

- A diverse group of 8-15 people who:
  - ...come together to talk to each other about critical public policy issues and to identify some possible ideas for community action.
  - ...participate in a small, democratic discussion and share common concerns, thoughts, and perspectives.
  - ...can agree that it is not necessary to agree with each other, but that it is important to listen and respect all viewpoints in order to learn from each other.
- The groups meet for five sessions over a period of two months followed by a call-to-action forum.
- The discussions are facilitated by a person who is not there to act as an expert on the issues, but to keep the discussion focused and to ensure that all voices are heard.
- The facilitator and participants use a framework provided in a discussion guide that includes differing points of view about critical issues, questions for discussion, and reference material that can be used to inform the circle participants.

---

### **What is Required of You as a Sponsor?**

---

#### *Fundamentals:*

- 1) Recruit a diverse group of between 8 and 15 people for your community circle.
- 2) Arrange a meeting space and time for your community circle.
- 3) Distribute discussion materials to each participant.
- 4) Designate a scribe to capture a written record of the highlights of each circle conversation.
- 5) Participate in an evaluation process.

#### *Other key roles of a sponsor:*

- Provide light snacks and beverages, a writing board and name tags at each meeting.
- Recruit a co-facilitator for your circle (may also serve as scribe).
- Keep records of participation for your circle (including address and phone listings).
- Provide child care, transportation and interpretive services as needed by participants.

---

### **What Cities at Work will provide for your community circle:**

---

- Discussion guide (plus additional background materials)
- Trained facilitator
- Assistance in linking with other sponsor organizations to ensure group diversity
- Opportunity to share ideas for community action at the *Cities at Work* Call-to-Action forum



# FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 04/22/99 TIME: 10:30A

TO: DICK LITTLE

COMPANY: EHEP

FAX #: (612) 330-1507 PHONE #: 612-330-1505

FROM: PAUL H. FRENCH

RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC. - (651)603-5811

FAX #: 645-2253 PHONE #: 645-6445

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 16

MESSAGE: Have a good trip!

Paul H. French

Original will follow.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** The document(s) in this fax transmission may contain confidential information which may be legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the intended recipient above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any in reliance on the contents of this telecopied information, except its direct delivery to the intended recipient above, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please notify us immediately by telephone to arrange for return of the original document(s) to us.

450 N. Syndicate Street, St. Paul, MN 55104 ■ Telephone: 612-645-6445 ■ Fax: 612-603-5994

For 30 years "Mobilizing Community Resources to Reduce Poverty in Ramsey and Washington Counties."  
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

**FAX COVER SHEET**

Date: 4-12-99

From: Kathleen R. McGraw  
Address: 1675 Valerie Lane  
New Brighton, MN 55112  
Phone: (612) 636-1650

Faxing From: <sup>651</sup>  
(612) 636-0139

To: Paul French

Address: RAF

St. Paul MN

Phone: 651-603-5811

Fax: 651-645-2253

**received**  
APR 12 1999

Number of pages including this cover sheet 2

*Prave  
& Burt  
Wish*

*Paul, I faxed (mailed these reports to Barb Rose. It would be great to facilitate legislators with our guidelines.*

## COMMUNITY CIRCLE CONVERSATIONS Attendance/Information Sheet

Date: Tuesdays 2-23-99 to 3-31-99

GROUP NAME: Ramsey Action Program (RAP)

LOCATION: 450 Syndicate St. Paul

Phone: 651-603-5874

Facilitator: Kathy McGrane Address: 1675 Valerie Lane New Brighton, MN 55112

Phone/Fax: 651-636-1650/651-636-0139

Co-Facilitator: None

Scribe: Several - Kirk Hayes, Kathy McGrane, Connie Pechus

Phone: RAP

\* Evaluations received

### MEETINGS

	1	2	3	4	5		
* 1			✓	✓	✓	Paul French - RAP	450 Syndicate St. St. Paul MN 651-603-5811
2	✓	✓				Kirk Hayes - RAP	450 Syndicate St. St. Paul, MN 651-645-6445 Ext. 5874 651-645-2253
* 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Connie Pechous - RAP	450 Syndicate St. St. Paul, MN 651-603-5873 651-645-2253
4			✓	✓	✓	Kate Seng - United Way	166 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> St. St. Paul, MN 651-291-8312 651-291-8353
5	✓	✓	✓	✓		Elizabeth Stevens - Youth Service Community Institute	581 Thomas Ave. St. Paul, MN 651-222-6906 Ext. 10 651-222-6275
* 6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Randy Bushaw - Women Venture	1070 Burgess St. St. Paul MN H-651-487-9827 651-646-3808 Est. 116 Fax 651-641-7223
7				✓		Dan Le - Attorney	46 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> St. St. Paul MN 55101 H- 651-783-5943 W651-222-5863 Fax 651-297-6457
8				✓	✓	Sherrie Pugh - HUD	220 So 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. Mpls MN 55401 612-370-3000X2209
9				✓	✓	Elizabeth Wise - HUD	220 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. Mpls. MN 55401 612-370-3000 Ext. 2285
* 10		✓	✓	✓	✓	Ike Welborn - RAP	450 Syndicate St. St. Paul MN 651-645-6631
11	✓	✓				Chue Vang - RAP (no longer here)	450 Syndicate St. St. Paul MN 651-645-6445 at new job now
12	✓	✓				Olivia Mares - RAP	450 syndicate St. St. Paul MN 651-645-6445
13	✓					MaryLou Clowes - RAP	450 syndicate St. St. Paul MN 651-645-6445
14		✓	✓	✓	✓	Marilyn Seagrest - RAP	450 Syndicate St. St. Paul, MN 651-645-6445 Fax 651-645-2253

Participant list

**Conversations at the Crossroads  
and  
Cities at Work  
Community Circle Dialogues  
on Education, Housing and Race in the Twin Cities Area  
- Open to the Public -**

(Please call 612-330-1505, ext. #1 to register for a Circle identified below - please indicate Circle # when calling)

**Saint Paul**

Bigelow Building, 2nd Floor #1 Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23  
450 Syndicate Street, Saint Paul (Midway)  
*Contact person - Kirk Hayes - (651) 603-5874*  
*Sponsor - Ramsey Action Programs, Inc.*

Black Bear Crossings Coffee House #24 Mondays, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. 3/22, 4/5, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10  
and Community Circle\*  
831 Como Avenue, Saint Paul  
*Contact Person - Barb Rose - (651) 659-6031*  
*Sponsor - The Saint Paul Companies*

JJ Hill Montessori Magnet School #3 Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 4/6, 4/13  
998 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul #4 Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/8, 4/15  
*Contact person - Steve Sonnabend - (651) 227-3887*

Saint Paul Area Council of Churches #2 Mondays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. 3/1, 3/15, 3/29, 4/12, 4/26  
1671 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul  
*Contact person - Bob Waltz - (651) 646-8805 x19*

University of St. Thomas #5 Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:10 p.m. (209) 2/23, 3/2, 3/11 (Thurs.), 3/16, 3/23  
O'Shaughnessy Educational Center (OEC) #6 Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:10 p.m. (432) 2/23, 3/2, 3/11 (Thurs.), 3/16, 3/23  
2115 Summit Ave., Saint Paul #7 Thursdays, 3:25 - 5:00 p.m. (208) Dates to be announced  
*Contact person - Cris Toffolo - (651) 962-5724*  
*or 641-1237* #23 Thursday evenings- Dates to be announced  
Time & place to be announced

**East Metro**

Goodwill Center (north entrance)\*\* #25 Mondays, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m. 3/22, 4/5, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10  
2543 Como Avenue, Lauderdale  
*Contact Person - Diana Huseth - (651) 646-2591 x178*  
*Sponsor - Goodwill/Easter Seals*

White Bear Lake/ Motahmedi #8 This circle will be paired with the Black Bear Crossings Circle (#24)  
*Contact person - Trisha Cummins Kaufman - (651) 773-8401 x11*  
*Sponsors - East Metro Women's Council, Project Respect and four other partnering community-based organizations*

Stillwater Public Library #9 Mondays, 7:00 - 8:45 p.m. 3/15, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19, 4/26  
223 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Stillwater  
*Contact person - Margie Matlin - Mon.-Wed. (651) 439-2609 (x13), Th. & Fri. (651) 429-6335*  
*Sponsors - Ascension Episcopal Church and Stillwater Area Public Schools*

**Minneapolis**

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis #10 Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27  
900 Mount Curve Ave., Minneapolis  
*Contact person - Wendy Yaeger - (612) 377-6608*

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral #12 Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23  
519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis  
*Contact person - Jan Frankman - (612) 349-9882 or (612) 935-5158*

Ramsey International Fine Arts School #14 Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25  
One West 49<sup>th</sup> St., Minneapolis  
*Contact person - Juliana James - (612) 627-2540 or (612) 928-4967*

**Community Circle Report**  
**March 16, 1999**

A new member joined the Circle: Kate Sang (United Way)

Intros included one good thing about the neighborhood you live in.

Questions were raised as to whether or not it is "MN nice" that we have African-Americans in positions of power? Or, is it deeper than that the response: "Words are a veil. Underneath is the Reality." Where are the minorities in the trades, unions, and mid-level managers?

The facilitator reminded the group that the concerns and comments that had been brought up at the last meeting need to be put in writing and documented. She then distributed another statistical report.

Generally, the group felt that these statistics might be skewed also (Example: "Crime is higher in poor neighborhoods." This may be due to underreporting of crime).

Kathy explained that these statistics quoted their source, which, therefore, they could be researched.

Paul French should be used as a resource to reach the media and how to write articles. He has a video and huge file re getting stuff into media. Randy had a question about sex harassment in the schools she was referred to call Barb Rose at Wilder 651-659-6031.

? regarding "exclusionary zoning" Concentrated poverty 40% or more of neighborhood/census tract (? Are these passed by # of units or geographic size, etc.)

Reason for segregation - comments are missing items - Classism (Financially based)  
 Need economic mixing area (which affect, school, etc.)

Page 9 in book - viewpoints - housing:

What stood out for you?

1. How to file class action lawsuits: long term Vs short-term person needs info to do, other to join with, legal help, meanwhile "where do they live?!"
2. Special tax breaks to private investors
3. Exclusionary housing "Affordable housing (definition needed) per legislation 50% of you income (of median income [based on?])  
 Transportation Public not adequate  
 Not enough percentage of new units for housing to make a dent in the Community, many communities.
4. Housing rates have gone up 'outsiders buying up property. Coleman comments in paper - leadership  
 Some folks want to rent not own a home.

5. want to do employer assisted housing in Washington County. Concern with strings attached to employers corp. \$s to communities.
6. **WRONG!** Snort... Only attractive to the moneymakers only. Might be safety issues! Combine a;; the viewpoints or key items choose the best points and put them together
7. **Discrimination** - What steps can be taken by communities to help assuage the situation?  
Provide livable wage jobs - want same choice as person who is (middle class) get rid of labels, biases, they are hurtful, stop using them.

Rent regulations do not exist.

Communities - education and mixing: Getting together with other races and groups help to form alliances to assist.

"Right" people not here: ("pay them") so that they may leave their jobs for two hours. Have meetings at lunchtime or before work.

Vacant dilapidated houses 960s - Race problem - Nat'l Guard would be called in)  
The Guard could rehab these homes they are trained to do this. Are they armed for force or armed for peace, could they be a task force or a task group?

Summary: Kathy

**Community Circle**  
**RAP Center**  
**3-23-99**

**Session #4**

New members Dan Le SMRLS (Housing Attorney -- this group critical federal funding also connected to city's use of money.)

Highlights turf war between drug dealers & contractors.

Intros again

Concern re: Circle's methodology/focus: Kathy reviewed what a circle is not (Focus group, and town meeting or mediation)

Article in paper re: number of units being available to low income.

Next session in Room #201

Dan talked about nonprofit

Education this session is the topic.

McKnight \$s will help Livable Communities Act

80% median income for home ownership

50% median income<sup>3</sup> for rental

1% should be done by legislature for housing

Ways to communicate good information to media (info).

- St. Paul City Company Comp. Housing Plan being voted on tomorrow at 3:30 PM

Blakey is proposing a 30%

Lantry & Coleman proposing 50%

Call your person and advocate: No public comment period, but media will be there tomorrow, vote around 4:00 PM

Concern re: lack of short-term suggestions/solutions from city. Need for clarification: current plan better than no plan. Council member Blakey or Coleman's proposal would go into effect almost immediately. Dan Le said to get graph: 651-222-5863

50% of homeless pop. Work full time!

\*Big gap between \$s spent on low income housing vs. demolition

Next Week: Do all of the reading. Bring all housing related information that you have documented.

? Re: state of school teachers: were the guideline increased (ex. 1000 to 4000, or influx of more folks cause the problem?)

Call Barb Rose 651-659-6031 about questions of the demographics or the material we are using for the community circle or if you come up with data that you feel would help the next community circle groups.

Univ. of Wash. In St. Louis: new studies -- re: homeownership impacting school results. Check the Internet for information

Stabilization of family more important than economy or color.

Even people of color feel that integration may have been not good for everyone.

Neighborhood schools give children the opportunity to stay after school to do schoolwork, recreation and socializing.

Now some kids don't know where to go to play so hang out on corners with drug dealers.

St. Paul schools – almost discourage parents from getting involved in determining a good school. Need to ask parents to be involved in a meaningful way with helping the students. Not every volunteer wants to cut out paper projects for artwork.

All schools should be equal.

Opportunity for parent involvement is very important.

School vouchers Choice re: some in the group have some of their children in private and use vouchers and their other children go to public school. One Community Circle felt that the discipline was better in the private school.

There is a "legal obligation" of the state to provide sufficient resources...

West St. Paul School District NAACP suing Mpls. Schools: Education is a right in America and only in America.

Culturally specific schooling is good so that the Eurocentric schools history is not the only thing people of color learn about history. Every culture needs to learn about their history. Others in the circle felt that if the history of the people of color were taught to all students then we would all gain from their rich cultures.

International Baccalaureate Program is very Eurocentric

Black males need more male role models in school (teachers are predominately women)

#7 Best on it is positive equitable funding for all schools

#8 plus number 7 would cover what we need in the schools for the most part.

Esd Com. Development Corp. 10 years – Trends/migration pattern know as Selby becomes gentrified, black move

Hot buttons – there are 55 community based groups working with youth in ward 1 alone!

Partnerships with community groups are not well recognized by schools. Many people of color/poor don't feel "welcome."

**Community Circles****RAP Center St. Paul****3-30-99****Kathy McGrane facilitator****Connie took notes Kathy wordprocessed****Session #5 last session for this circle****Review of last session.**

**Homefront:** different dynamics now than when circle members went to school: latchkey kids, parents come home tired, sometimes kids by themselves.

**Reading:** libraries, after school programs, tutoring would help.

**OJT programs can be detrimental especially if ---**

**Review of the past weeks:**

Group disagreed with the demographics somewhat

We need a definition of low income, affordable safe housing, Region

Talked about what was happening in community didn't have source of info.

Group did not want a planned agenda

Group thought the wrong people were in the circle

Group was not sure how to get the right people here

Group questioned the increase in free or reduced school lunches

Facilitator told the group that the information the members of this circle have is where the answers are and to move forward with action it was suggested that we use each other as resources. Paul - media ++, Cheri & Elizabeth - HUD, Ike - men of color, Liz Stevens - youth, and Randy - Women Venture etc.

Paul commented that there have been no new written policies on rentals.

? Is it ok for mayor's remarks re: low income housing not the responsibility of St. Paul to build more low-income housing.

Question asked by facilitator because of the comments made by the group throughout the previous 4 sessions:

First there was anger at the mayor's comments didn't think it was St. Paul's job to build more low-income housing.

Then I heard someone say that suburbs have higher income housing and so they collect more taxes and therefore have better schools.

Then I heard that Frog town wasn't sure the nonprofit program should own housing units because they would then not generate revenue which St. Paul needs to build more low income housing and better education and pay for community based programs.

Then I heard that the \$170,000 town home will not house the needy low income and, they will supply a tax base revenue and they will keep people especially professionals and elderly, etc. from moving to suburbs and they will keep the environment from using up more land.

Then I heard this group say that the suburbs must build low income housing so people can live where the jobs are because there is not adequate transportation for them to get there from the city.

Now I ask where are you with the Mayor's comments?

All depends on viewpoint Mayor - economics oriented, political agenda,

Another member said that we need to address all of the above problems. No one size fits all. Desire to want to address problem mayor is political, not concerned with people.

Affordable housing needs to be spread out.

Low-income people need a support system.

## **COMMON THREADS**

Discussion:

- The group works with discussion material 24/7 – material not new

## **COMMON THEMES**

Solutions

- Education segregation unforced might be good
- Forced busing may not be good
- Neighborhood schools are important to have partner with community based programs
- State should fill-in \$ needed for schools

## **AREAS OF AGREEMENT**

- Quality & types of so many schools choices + unequal education & it is complicated
- Shortage of culturally specific teachers (self reflective role model [male])
- Equitable funding for all schools
- Smaller the school better the education
- In need of affordable/safe & clear definition of this
- Segregation still exists
- Demographics – could be more positive and clearer

## **ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS**

All

- Be mutual accountability between institutions to the community
- Listen to the community
- Work closely with community leadership
- Leadership will emerge from within community

Schools

- Education/role in community center
- Police self
- Welcoming
- Documentation of problems
- Adequate training for teachers, etc

State Government

- Enact new legislation to mandate funding for schools/housing, etc. (basics)

City

- Provide resources
- Management of resources

Met Council

- Plan regionally
- Implement plan
- Broker of partnership collaboration

#### **Business Community**

- Pay livable wages
- Be a vehicle for public service info., ed, (lessons for living given at the work place)

#### **Neighborhood Organizations**

- Provide training to community members for involvement
- Have pep rallies
- Be a watch dog
- Serve as a liaison from community to the institutions
- Work with the religious community

#### **Religious community**

- Keepers of the community values & vision
- Educate on the golden rule/reconciliation
- Public theology Spiritual - LOVING OF WHOLE

#### **The responsibility of the community as a whole**

1. get involved (all must be involved for change to happen)
2. community is comprised of individuals each must act and be invited
3. be informed
4. continually ask the critical questions
5. Vote!
6. Represent all of the community members

#### **ACTION IDEAS**

**Individual:** Vote, become facilitators for Community Circles and other groups

**Group:** This Community Circle must bring the community circles to the schools

**Organization:** Lunch hour - once week community circles could be held for working

Parents.

Contact: school board/civics teacher parent assn.

Remove barriers to attending

**Community:** Leadership for community circles from the community

Remove barriers to attending: mileage, wages, transportation, day care

To get any of the above actions to happen there is a need for some Marketing - telling the benefits of attending.

"Call to Action Forum" will be in the fall and all attendees will receive a notice of this.

All were encouraged to call Barb Rose and let her know that they are interested in starting more community circles.



# FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 04/29/99 TIME: 1:45p

TO: PAM JEWSON

COMPANY: E H E P

FAX #: 612-330-1507 PHONE #: 612-330-1505

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC. -

FAX #: 645-2253

PHONE #: 645-6445

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE: Sorry I was not able  
to attend the Cities @ Work  
meeting at Wilder. I have a  
special project I am working on  
for my organization that demands my immediate

Original will follow.

*attention Paul H. French*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** The document(s) in this fax transmission may contain confidential information which may be legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the intended recipient above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any in reliance on the contents of this telecopied information, except its direct delivery to the intended recipient above, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please notify us immediately by telephone to arrange for return of the original document(s) to us.

450 N. Syndicate Street, St. Paul, MN 55104 • Telephone: 612-645-6445 • Fax: 612-603-5994

For 30 years "Mobilizing Community Resources to Reduce Poverty in Ramsey and Washington Counties."  
 An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Community Circle Report  
March 16, 1999**

A new member joined the Circle: Kate Sang (United Way)

Intros included one good thing about the neighborhood you live in.

Questions were raised as to whether or not it is "MN nice" that we have African-Americans in positions of power? Or, is it deeper than that the response: "Words are a veil. Underneath is the Reality." Where are the minorities in the trades, unions, and mid-level managers?

The facilitator reminded the group that the concerns and comments that had been brought up at the last meeting need to be put in writing and documented. She then distributed another statistical report.

Generally, the group felt that these statistics might be skewed also (Example: "Crime is higher in poor neighborhoods." This may be due to underreporting of crime).

Kathy explained that these statistics quoted their source, which, therefore, they could be researched.

Paul French should be used as a resource to reach the media and how to write articles. He has a video and huge file re getting stuff into media. Randy had a question about sex harassment in the schools she was referred to call Barb Rose at Wilder 651-659-6031.

? regarding "exclusionary zoning" Concentrated poverty 40% or more of neighborhood/census tract (? Are these passed by # of units or geographic size, etc.)

Reason for segregation - comments are missing items - Classism (Financially based)  
Need economic mixing area (which affect, school, etc.)

Page 9 in book - viewpoints - housing:

What stood out for you?

1. How to file class action lawsuits: long term Vs short-term person needs info to do, other to join with, legal help, meanwhile "where do they live?!"
2. Special tax breaks to private investors
3. Exclusionary housing "Affordable housing (definition needed) per legislation 50% of you income (of median income [based on?])  
Transportation Public not adequate  
Not enough percentage of new units for housing to make a dent in the Community, many communities.
4. Housing rates have gone up 'outsiders buying up property. Coleman comments in paper - leadership  
Some folks want to rent not own a home.

5. want to do employer assisted housing in Washington County. Concern with strings attached to employers corp. \$\$ to communities.
6. **WRONG!** Snort... Only attractive to the moneymakers only. Might be safety issues! Combine a;; the viewpoints or key items choose the best points and put them together
7. **Discrimination** - What steps can be taken by communities to help assuage the situation?  
Provide livable wage jobs - want same choice as person who is (middle class) get rid of labels, biases, they are hurtful, stop using them.

Rent regulations do not exist.

Communities - education and mixing: Getting together with other races and groups help to form alliances to assist.

"Right" people not here: ("pay them") so that they may leave their jobs for two hours. Have meetings at lunchtime or before work.

Vacant dilapidated houses 960s - Race problem - Nat'l Guard would be called in)  
The Guard could rehab these homes they are trained to do this. Are they armed for force or armed for peace, could they be a task force or a task group?

Summary: Kathy

**Community Circle  
RAP Center  
3-23-99**

**Session #4**

New members Dan Le SMRLS (Housing Attorney – this group critical federal funding also connected to city's use of money.)

Highlights turf war between drug dealers & contractors.

Intros again

Concern re: Circle's methodology/focus: Kathy reviewed what a circle is not (Focus group, and town meeting or mediation)

Article in paper re: number of units being available to low income.

Next session in Room #201

Dan talked about nonprofit

Education this session is the topic.

McKnight \$s will help Livable Communities Act

80% median income for home ownership

50% median income<sup>3</sup> for rental

1% should be done by legislature for housing

Ways to communicate good information to media (info).

- St. Paul City Company Comp. Housing Plan being voted on tomorrow at 3:30 PM

Blakey is proposing a 30%

Lantry & Coleman proposing 50%

Call your person and advocate: No public comment period, but media will be there tomorrow, vote around 4:00 PM

Concern re: lack of short-term suggestions/solutions from city. Need for clarification: current plan better than no plan. Council member Blakey or Coleman's proposal would go into effect almost immediately. Dan Le said to get graph: 651-222-5863

50% of homeless pop. Work full time!

\*Big gap between \$s spent on low income housing vs. demolition

Next Week: Do all of the reading. Bring all housing related information that you have documented.

? Re: state of school teachers: were the guideline increased (ex. 1000 to 4000, or influx of more folks cause the problem?)

Call Barb Rose 651-659-6031 about questions of the demographics or the material we are using for the community circle or if you come up with data that you feel would help the next community circle groups.

Univ. of Wash. In St. Louis: new studies – re: homeownership impacting school results. Check the Internet for information

**Stabilization of family more important than economy or color.**

**Even people of color feel that integration may have been not good for everyone.**

**Neighborhood schools give children the opportunity to stay after school to do schoolwork, recreation and socializing.**

**Now some kids don't know where to go to play so hang out on corners with drug dealers.**

**St. Paul schools - almost discourage parents from getting involved in determining a good school. Need to ask parents to be involved in a meaningful way with helping the students. Not every volunteer wants to cut out paper projects for artwork.**

**All schools should be equal.**

**Opportunity for parent involvement is very important.**

**School vouchers Choice re: some in the group have some of their children in private and use vouchers and their other children go to public school. One Community Circle felt that the discipline was better in the private school.**

**There is a "legal obligation" of the state to provide sufficient resources...**

**West St. Paul School District NAACP suing Mpls. Schools: Education is a right in America and only in America.**

**Culturally specific schooling is good so that the Eurocentric schools history is not the only thing people of color learn about history. Every culture needs to learn about their history. Others in the circle felt that if the history of the people of color were taught to all students then we would all gain from their rich cultures.**

**International Baccalaureate Program is very Eurocentric**

**Black males need more male role models in school (teachers are predominately women)**

**#7 Best on it is positive equitable funding for all schools**

**#8 plus number 7 would cover what we need in the schools for the most part.**

**Esd Com. Development Corp. 10 years - Trends/migration pattern know as Selby becomes gentrified, black move**

**Hot buttons - there are 55 community based groups working with youth in ward 1 alone!**

**Partnerships with community groups are not well recognized by schools. Many people of color/poor don't feel "welcome."**

**Community Circles****RAP Center St. Paul****3-30-99****Kathy McGrane facilitator****Connie took notes Kathy wordprocessed****Session #5 last session for this circle****Review of last session.**

**Homefront:** different dynamics now than when circle members went to school: latchkey kids, parents come home tired, sometimes kids by themselves.

**Reading:** libraries, after school programs, tutoring would help.

**OJT programs** can be detrimental especially if ---

**Review of the past weeks:**

Group disagreed with the demographics somewhat

We need a definition of low income, affordable safe housing, Region

Talked about what was happening in community didn't have source of info.

Group did not want a planned agenda

Group thought the wrong people were in the circle

Group was not sure how to get the right people here

Group questioned the increase in free or reduced school lunches

Facilitator told the group that the information the members of this circle have is where the answers are and to move forward with action it was suggested that we use each other as resources. Paul - media ++, Cheri & Elizabeth - HUD, Ike - men of color, Liz Stevens - youth, and Randy - Women Venture etc.

Paul commented that there have been no new written policies on rentals.

? Is it ok for mayor's remarks re: low income housing not the responsibility of St. Paul to build more low-income housing.

Question asked by facilitator because of the comments made by the group throughout the previous 4 sessions:

First there was anger at the mayor's comments didn't think it was St. Paul's job to build more low-income housing.

Then I heard someone say that suburbs have higher income housing and so they collect more taxes and therefore have better schools.

Then I heard that Frog town wasn't sure the nonprofit program should own housing units because they would then not generate revenue which St. Paul needs to build more low income housing and better education and pay for community based programs.

Then I heard that the \$170,000 town home will not house the needy low income and, they will supply a tax base revenue and they will keep people especially professionals and elderly, etc. from moving to suburbs and they will keep the environment from using up more land.

Then I heard this group say that the suburbs must build low income housing so people can live where the jobs are because there is not adequate transportation for them to get there from the city.

Now I ask where are you with the Mayor's comments?

All depends on viewpoint Mayor - economics oriented, political agenda,

Another member said that we need to address all of the above problems. No one size fits all. Desire to want to address problem mayor is political, not concerned with people.

Affordable housing needs to be spread out.

Low-income people need a support system.

### COMMON THREADS

Discussion:

- The group works with discussion material 24/7 – material not new

### COMMON THEMES

Solutions

- Education segregation unforced might be good
- Forced busing may not be good
- Neighborhood schools are important to have partner with community based programs
- State should fill-in \$ needed for schools

### AREAS OF AGREEMENT

- Quality & types of so many schools choices + unequal education & it is complicated
- Shortage of culturally specific teachers (self reflective role model [male])
- Equitable funding for all schools
- Smaller the school better the education
- In need of affordable/safe & clear definition of this
- Segregation still exists
- Demographics – could be more positive and clearer

### ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS

All

- Be mutual accountability between institutions to the community
- Listen to the community
- Work closely with community leadership
- Leadership will emerge from within community

Schools

- Education/role in community center
- Police self
- Welcoming
- Documentation of problems
- Adequate training for teachers, etc

State Government

- Enact new legislation to mandate funding for schools/housing, etc. (basics)

City

- Provide resources
- Management of resources

Met Council

- Plan regionally
- Implement plan
- Broker of partnership collaboration

#### **Business Community**

- Pay livable wages
- Be a vehicle for public service info., ed, (lessons for living given at the work place)

#### **Neighborhood Organizations**

- Provide training to community members for involvement
- Have pep rallies
- Be a watch dog
- Serve as a liaison from community to the institutions
- Work with the religious community

#### **Religious community**

- Keepers of the community values & vision
- Educate on the golden rule/reconciliation
- Public theology Spiritual – LOVING OF WHOLE

#### **The responsibility of the community as a whole**

1. get involved (all must be involved for change to happen)
2. community is comprised of individuals each must act and be invited
3. be informed
4. continually ask the critical questions
5. Vote!
6. Represent all of the community members

#### **ACTION IDEAS**

**Individual:** Vote, become facilitators for Community Circles and other groups

**Group:** This Community Circle must bring the community circles to the schools

**Organization:** Lunch hour – once week community circles could be held for working  
Parents.

Contact: school board/civics teacher parent assn.

Remove barriers to attending

**Community:** Leadership for community circles from the community

Remove barriers to attending: mileage, wages, transportation, day care

To get any of the above actions to happen there is a need for some Marketing – telling the benefits of attending.

“Call to Action Forum” will be in the fall and all attendees will receive a notice of this.

All were encouraged to call Barb Rose and let her know that they are interested in starting more community circles.

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**Date:** 04/06/99

**To:** Mary Lou Clowes, Director, Community Change Division

**From:** Paul H. French, Community Issues Developer, Community Change Division

**RE: REPORT ON 'CITIES AT WORK' INITIATIVE**

---

In association with the Wilder Foundation, Community Change Division held the first of twenty-nine, "Cities at Work" Community Circle Dialogues. My task was to recruit social service and education professionals to discuss race & discrimination, housing and education. In addition, I was able to provide the group with current information to use in discussions on both issues from my resource library. The meeting were held five consecutive weeks between February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999, at the Bigelow Building. Our group consisted of RAP, Inc., frontline staff from the Self-Sufficiency Division and professionals from other organizations. (See attachments) Kirk Hayes, Connie Pechous and Marilyn Segrest also assisted in the effort. The Wilder Foundation provided me with a daylong training on how to facilitate the meetings although they also assigned a professional consulting co-facilitator to each group.

In my absence Kirk Hayes acted as co-facilitator. Connie Pechous and Marilyn Segrest were scribes as well as participants. The assigned facilitator was responsible for compiling and drafting the meeting results and I will receive a copy once it is complete. In the meantime, I have attached notes from the sessions I attended. These conversations were dialogue and not debate. Consequently, there were no consensus on ideology and we obtained a multiple opinions on the concepts and conditions regarding subject matter.

The "Cities at Work" initiative continues. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, and May 18<sup>th</sup>, Spring Forums will be staged with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio to highlight the results of the dialogues. The are titled, 'Stop Talking, Just Do It!', and Face-to Face. Two Fall Forums are also being designed. An action forum will follow to connect citizens with organization to provide opportunities to implement recommendations flowing from the circle conversations. They will also examine the impact of our increasingly multi-cultured community. Each forum will focus on a different aspect of the Twin Cities diversity and will use a mixture of audience participation activities, drama presentation and follow up discussion to stimulate learning and discovery. The forums will feature ethnic food and locations in different neighborhood gathering places around the city.

**RE: REPORT ON "CITIES AT WORK" INITIATIVE****Meeting Attendees**

Paul H. French	Rap, Inc.
Kirk Hayes	Rap, Inc.
Chue Neng Thao	Rap, Inc.
Olivia Mares	Rap, Inc.
Ike Welborn	Rap, Inc.
Connie Pechous	Rap, Inc.
Marilyn Segrest	Rap, Inc.
Elizabeth Stevens	Youth Services Institute
Randy Bushaw	Women's Venture
Dan Le	Southern MN. Regional Legal Services
Sherrie Pugh	Department of Housing & Urban Development
Elizabeth Wise	Department of Housing & Urban Development
Kate Seng	United Way

PHF/phf

Attachments

Cities at Work  
Midway Community Circle Dialogue

Notes from 2/23/99

Participants were asked to introduce themselves, give a brief description of where they were born and raised and how this influence their racial beliefs.

Facilitator asked what stood out in the life stories that were heard today (2/23/99)?

- Common happy childhood experiences.
- Surprised at the similarities of life stories.
- Struck with commonalities of experiences-in family members expressing racist views or tendencies but where those same individuals had or two relationships with members of a different race where race did not matter.
- Parents/older sibling very prejudiced.
- Prejudices seem to be directed more toward African-Americans/Blacks than other ethnic groups.

How are you different as a result of this mornings conversation? What ne awareness will you bring into your life?

- Don't feel different now.
- Without a more diverse group (racial/sex or gender) it is hard to get a feeling of differences.

**Segregation in Housing:**

1. **Racial prejudice and discrimination cause people to live apart  
And sooo...**

2. **High crime and poor schools drive people away.**

**Stability of neighborhood makes them work  
Need to look beyond perception  
Rated by perception not searching for fact.  
Publicity & news is negative**

3. **Institutional racism in housing, hiring, and education leads to inequities.**

**This is the KEY  
High crime drives people out - they quit  
This number 3 is the reason for segregation  
Amen this is the way it is everyday  
Non achievers is a label  
Why alternative schools**

4. **People like to live where they have "elbow room."**

**Disagree #3 is the cause  
Not enough truth  
Economics allows us to exercise choice**

5. **Public policy and economic trends promote and maintain divisions among people.**

**Pushed her button - affordable housing enough to "who"  
Mayor Coleman said that St. Paul has more than our fair share of low-income  
housing**

**FAX COVER SHEET**

Date: 3-24-99

From: Kathleen E. McGrane  
Address: 1675 Valeric Lane  
New Brighton, MN 55112  
Phone: (612) 636-1650  
651  
Faxing From: (612) 636-0139

To: Barb Rose

Address: Wilder

Phone: 651-659-6031

Fax: 651-642-2088

Number of pages including this cover sheet 6

# Community Circle Report Form

## Session #1: Getting Started

Sponsoring Organization: RAP Date: 2-23-99

Meeting Location: 450 Syndicate St. Paul Number of Participants: 8

Facilitator: Kathy McGrane Scribe: Kirk Hayes

\*\*\*\*\*

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about experiences with racism or segregation which your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Parents or siblings of participants were <sup>very</sup> prejudiced in almost all members present

2. Some members present have a significant other who is not of the same race even though their family was prejudiced.

3. Prejudices seem to be more directed toward African Americans/Blacks than other ethnic groups

4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

Felt we needed a more diverse group (racial/sex or gender) without which ~~we~~ it is hard to get a feeling of different.

*attachment  
Notes 2-23  
Kathy*

Cities at Work  
Midway Community Circle Dialogue

Notes from 2/23/99

Participants were asked to introduce themselves, give a brief description of where they were born and raised and how this influence their racial beliefs.

Facilitator asked what stood out in the life stories that were heard today (2/23/99)?

- Common happy childhood experiences.
- Surprised at the similarities of life stories.
- Struck with commonalities of experiences-in family members expressing racist views or tendencies but where those same individuals had or two relationships with members of a different race where race did not matter.
- Parents/older sibling very prejudiced.
- Prejudices seem to be directed more toward African-Americans/Blacks than other ethnic groups.

How are you different as a result of this mornings conversation? What new awareness will you bring into your life?

- Don't feel different now.
- Without a more diverse group (racial/sex or gender) it is hard to get a feeling of differences.

# Community Circle Report Form

Session #2: What are the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities?

Sponsoring Organization: RAP Date: 3-2-99

Meeting Location: 450 Syndicate Number of Participants: 7

Facilitator: Kathy McGrane Scribe: Kathy McGrane  
Kirk Hayes - Didn't get his Notes

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Stability of neighborhoods makes them work.  
Need to look beyond perceptions. People rate others  
by perception not fact. Nonachievers is a label.  
Publicity & news media are negative.

2. Institutional Racism is the KEY to problem  
of segregation (Story # 5). This is the way it is  
everyday. Public policy & economic  
trends

3. Economic allows us to exercise choice  
affordable housing (for who?)

4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

We went over the demographics - the  
group felt they were very negative -  
also media is negative. I asked them  
to come prepared with some positive  
happening in their neighborhood that could  
be reported to the media. They will  
share this when we do introductions.

*attachment  
Notes 3-2-99*

**RAP Community Circle Dialogue  
March 2, 1999**

**Discussion Notes on Demographics:**

**About Schools:**

- Incomplete
- Mobility rate was higher
- Think bias crimes are higher or are under reported
- Think that sexual harassment & Bias crimes are reported together
- Data is obsolete
- No information about students of color who are achieving
- All statistics are from an adult point of perspective and way of coping disregards what youth cope with.
- Participant said those student achievement disparities between city and suburb not accurate.
- Concern about teachers coping not students coping
- In regards to teen pregnancy give the number of ethnicity of school staff and counselor information

**About Housing:**

- Bullet number one and number 11 contradict
- The way information is shared is piecemeal
- Regional median income what does regional mean
- Need a clear definition of low income
- Need clear definition of affordable and safe housing
- ~~Bullet number 12 is not affordable housing~~
- Full time workers at what wage and benefit level are you referring to?
- For bullets 18 & 19 what are the percent and numbers?

**About Our Community:**

- Reaganomics won
- The demographics are concentrated on African Americans, what about immigrants, American Indians and S.E. Asians?

**About Our Economy:**

- The key is that less than half of the jobs in Mpls. And St. Paul pay what is considered a livable wage
- What do the writers of these demographics mean by Minorities and what do they mean by people of color it seems at times that they are being used interchangeably.
- Where are the positives everything about the demographics are negative.

**Did You Know:**

- Light rail is not designed to move low income to jobs out of the city.

*transportation*

*Demographics are broken up to be misleading*

*Region includes 5 Co. Metro Not just Mpls and St Paul or Ramsey? Hennepin?*

Segregation in Housing:

1. Racial prejudice and discrimination cause people to live apart  
And sooo...

2. High crime and poor schools drive people away.

Stability of neighborhood makes them work.  
Need to look beyond perception  
Rated by perception not searching for fact.  
Publicity & news is negative

3. Institutional racism in housing, hiring, and education leads to inequities.

This is the KEY  
High crime drives people out - they quit  
This number 3 is the reason for segregation  
Amen this is the way it is everyday  
Non achievers is a label  
Why alternative schools ?

4. People like to live where they have "elbow room."

Disagree #3 is the cause  
Not enough truth  
Economics allows us to exercise choice

5. Public policy and economic trends promote and maintain divisions among people.

Pushed her button - affordable housing enough to "who"  
Mayor Coleman said that St. Paul has more than our fair share of low-income housing

*Class in the neighborhood*  
↓  
*income level*  
↘ *property tax more school money*

*Mix of economic segments in community allows balance between schools*

## DISCUSSION LEADER'S EVALUATION FORM

### Community Circle Group

1. Name: Kathy McGrane
2. Study Circle organizer Paul French (RAP)
3. Meeting Location: RAP Center St. Paul, MN  
Tuesdays, Feb. 23 – March 31, 1999  
9:30 – 11:30
4. How many total meetings: 5
5. Number of participants:  
I 7 II 8 III 6 IV 9 V 8
6. How would you characterize your study circle in terms of gender, racial and ethnic make-up, political spectrum, etc? We had black men, black women, white women, one Hispanic for 2 meetings and one Asian woman for 2 meetings and one Asian man for ½ a meeting. Most seemed to be democrats and liberal. There were no conservatives represented nor white men.
7. What perspectives were well represented in you group? Which were missing? The people of low income and homeless from the community were missing. The working poor were missing. Politicians were missing. Those present were from nonprofit organizations. Most were asked to be there by their employers.
8. What were your own observations about the dialogue and group process? For the most part they agreed (homogenous). The group did not want community Circle Agenda – They wanted action.
9. What did members of the group say about their discussions? They did not agree with the statistics, they wanted an open forum, They wanted to take action – In the 5<sup>th</sup> session they wanted to set another meeting to start community circles.
10. What was the topic of the group's liveliest discussion? Final session all finally focused on the agenda. We were talking action, they are ready for more meetings.
11. What were areas of general agreement? What were areas with little consensus? They agreed that there was a desperate ongoing housing problem in St. Paul and for all low-income people. All agreed that there is no common definition of what low income is. The disagreement came when discussion about are there different classes within the black community.
12. What suggestions came from the group about how people (individuals, organizations, institutions, and government) might better address the issue? Create more community circles and get the people from the community to be present at the meetings and teach them to lead and facilitate the groups.
13. Did you have adequate support from your study circle's organizer and from the coordinators of the overall program? If not what additional support would have been helpful?  
The circle's organizer was not present at the first two meetings, which are critical a time for formation of the group, he had health problems. The facilitator should be invited to the location of the meeting space in advance of the first meeting and to meet the coordinator. At that time they should be given a flip chart and felt tip pens to prepare at home for the meeting. Some volunteer facilitators may not be able to afford to buy their own supplies. This preparation is better done prior to each meeting. The scribes only filled out the first meeting notes. Following

that one person took notes however didn't get them typed. As a facilitator I ended up doing this. Also it should be clear that the Scribe is responsible for getting all of the roster information for those coming to the meeting.

Barb Rose was always concerned about my needs. She allowed me to use her for a sounding board, this was very helpful. My group was the first to meet in this series of Community Circles and therefore the materials were not fully completed with their updating before my second session. Materials were a bit piecemeal. I was pleased with the improvement of the materials.

14. If you were to lead another study circle, what would you change? Meet with coordinator sponsor prior to the first circle. I was given a full agenda for each meeting and when I arrived there was additional material sent to the Sponsor not me and I was expected to figure out what to do with it immediately. This is too difficult to add to a full agenda. The facilitator needs pertinent information ahead of meeting for planning purposes. Dick Little would give the information to Paul French, Paul would give it to me and then Barb Rose would call me to tell me that she was also sending out this material. Paul and Barb need to coordinate what will be given out and who is getting and which of them will do the disseminating of material.

The meeting site was excellent.

I came well prepared, invited all to participate. Was not strong enough about not allowing new group members after the second meeting. This was very disruptive and they came with their own agendas – unaware of the circle beginnings and the circle agenda. It was very difficult for me that people are not on time, especially considering the amount of material and needed time for discussion. We started late and ended late with people leaving early.

My suggestion. The circle should be set up so that there is a gathering time starting 15 minutes prior to the facilitated time. Then people may show up on time.

15. Do you have concerns, or did the group have concerns, which need to be discussed with the study circle program's working group? The members in this group want to know how to start more community Circles. I am not available to volunteer again at this point in time.

Please call me if you think there needs to be further discussion on any of my answers to the questions.

It was a wonderful learning experience for me; I appreciate the opportunity facilitating the community circle presented.

Sincerely,



Kathy McGrane

**Community Circle Report**  
**March 16, 1999**

A new member joined the Circle: Kate Sang (United Way)

Intros included one good thing about the neighborhood you live in.

Questions were raised as to whether or not it is "MN nice" that we have African-Americans in positions of power? Or, is it deeper than that the response: "Words are a veil. Underneath is the Reality." Where are the minorities in the trades, unions, and mid-level managers?

The facilitator reminded the group that the concerns and comments that had been brought up at the last meeting need to be put in writing and documented. She then distributed another statistical report.

Generally, the group felt that these statistics might be skewed also (Example: "Crime is higher in poor neighborhoods." This may be due to underreporting of crime).

Kathy explained that these statistics quoted their source, which, therefore, they could be researched.

Paul French should be used as a resource to reach the media and how to write articles. He has a video and huge file re getting stuff into media. Randy had a question about sex harassment in the schools she was referred to call Barb Rose at Wilder 651-659-6031.

? regarding "exclusionary zoning" Concentrated poverty 40% or more of neighborhood/census tract (? Are these passed by # of units or geographic size, etc.)

Reason for segregation – comments are missing items – Classism (Financially based)  
Need economic mixing area (which affect, school, etc.)

Page 9 in book – viewpoints – housing:

What stood out for you?

1. How to file class action lawsuits: long term Vs short-term person needs info to do, other to join with, legal help, meanwhile "where do they live?!"
2. Special tax breaks to private investors
3. Exclusionary housing "Affordable housing (definition needed) per legislation 50% of you income (of median income [based on?])  
Transportation Public not adequate  
Not enough percentage of new units for housing to make a dent in the Community, many communities.
4. Housing rates have gone up 'outsiders buying up property. Coleman comments in paper – leadership  
Some folks want to rent not own a home.

5. want to do employer assisted housing in Washington County. Concern with strings attached to employers corp. \$s to communities.

6. **WRONG!** Snort... Only attractive to the moneymakers only. Might be safety issues!  
Combine a;; the viewpoints or key items choose the best points and put them together

7. **Discrimination** – What steps can be taken by communities to help assuage the situation?

Provide livable wage jobs – want same choice as person who is (middle class) get rid of labels, biases, they are hurtful, stop using them.

Rent regulations do not exist.

Communities – education and mixing: Getting together with other races and groups help to form alliances to assist.

“Right” people not here: (“pay them”) so that they may leave their jobs for two hours. Have meetings at lunchtime or before work.

Vacant dilapidated houses 960s – Race problem – Nat’l Guard would be called in)

The Guard could rehab these homes they are trained to do this. Are they armed for force or armed for peace, could they be a task force or a task group?

Summary: Kathy

**Community Circle**  
**RAP Center**  
**3-23-99**

**Session #4**

New members Dan Le SMRLS (Housing Attorney – this group critical federal funding also connected to city's use of money.)

Highlights turf war between drug dealers & contractors.

Intros again

Concern re: Circle's methodology/focus: Kathy reviewed what a circle is not (Focus group, and town meeting or mediation)

Article in paper re: number of units being available to low income.

Next session in Room #201

Dan talked about nonprofit

Education this session is the topic.

McKnight \$s will help Livable Communities Act

80% median income for home ownership

50% median income<sup>3</sup> for rental

1% should be done by legislature for housing

Ways to communicate good information to media (info).

- St. Paul City Company Comp. Housing Plan being voted on tomorrow at 3:30 PM  
Blakey is proposing a 30%

Lantry & Coleman proposing 50%

Call your person and advocate: No public comment period, but media will be there tomorrow, vote around 4:00 PM

Concern re: lack of short-term suggestions/solutions from city. Need for clarification: current plan better than no plan. Council member Blakey or Coleman's proposal would go into effect almost immediately. Dan Le said to get graph: 651-222-5863

50% of homeless pop. Work full time!

\*Big gap between \$s spent on low income housing vs. demolition

Next Week: Do all of the reading. Bring all housing related information that you have documented.

? Re: state of school teachers: were the guideline increased (ex. 1000 to 4000, or influx of more folks cause the problem?)

Call Barb Rose 651-659-6031 about questions of the demographics or the material we are using for the community circle or if you come up with data that you feel would help the next community circle groups.

Univ. of Wash. In St. Louis: new studies – re: homeownership impacting school results.  
Check the Internet for information

Stabilization of family more important than economy or color.

Even people of color feel that integration may have been not good for everyone.

Neighborhood schools give children the opportunity to stay after school to do schoolwork, recreation and socializing.

Now some kids don't know where to go to play so hang out on corners with drug dealers.

St. Paul schools – almost discourage parents from getting involved in determining a good school. Need to ask parents to be involved in a meaningful way with helping the students. Not every volunteer wants to cut out paper projects for artwork.

All schools should be equal.  
Opportunity for parent involvement is very important.

School vouchers Choice re: some in the group have some of their children in private and use vouchers and their other children go to public school. One Community Circle felt that the discipline was better in the private school.

There is a “legal obligation” of the state to provide sufficient resources...  
West St. Paul School District NAACP suing Mpls. Schools: Education is a right in America and only in America.

Culturally specific schooling is good so that the Eurocentric schools history is not the only thing people of color learn about history. Every culture needs to learn about their history. Others in the circle felt that if the history of the people of color were taught to all students then we would all gain from their rich cultures.

International Baccalaureate Program is very Eurocentric

Black males need more male role models in school (teachers are predominately women)

#7 Best on it is positive equitable funding for all schools

#8 plus number 7 would cover what we need in the schools for the most part.

Esd Com. Development Corp. 10 years – Trends/migration pattern know as Selby becomes gentrified, black move

Hot buttons – there are 55 community based groups working with youth in ward 1 alone!

Partnerships with community groups are not well recognized by schools. Many people of color/poor don't feel "welcome."

**Community Circles**  
**RAP Center St. Paul**  
**3-30-99**

**Kathy McGrane facilitator**  
**Connie took notes Kathy wordprocessed**

**Session #5 last session for this circle**

**Review of last session.**

Homefront: different dynamics now than when circle members went to school: latchkey kids, parents come home tired, sometimes kids by themselves.

Reading: libraries, after school programs, tutoring would help.

OJT programs can be detrimental especially if ---

Review of the past weeks:

Group disagreed with the demographics somewhat

We need a definition of low income, affordable safe housing, Region

Talked about what was happening in community didn't have source of info.

Group did not want a planned agenda

Group thought the wrong people were in the circle

Group was not sure how to get the right people here

Group questioned the increase in free or reduced school lunches

Facilitator told the group that the information the members of this circle have is where the answers are and to move forward with action it was suggested that we use each other as resources. Paul - media ++, Cheri & Elizabeth - HUD, Ike - men of color, Liz Stevens - youth, and Randy - Women Venture etc.

Paul commented that there have been no new written policies on rentals.

? Is it ok for mayor's remarks re: low income housing not the responsibility of St. Paul to build more low-income housing.

Question asked by facilitator because of the comments made by the group throughout the previous 4 sessions:

First there was anger at the mayor's comments didn't think it was St. Paul's job to build more low-income housing.

Then I heard someone say that suburbs have higher income housing and so they collect more taxes and therefore have better schools.

Then I heard that Frog town wasn't sure the nonprofit program should own housing units because they would then not generate revenue which St. Paul needs to build more low income housing and better education and pay for community based programs.

Then I heard that the \$170,000 town home will not house the needy low income and, they will supply a tax base revenue and they will keep people especially professionals and elderly, etc. from moving to suburbs and they will keep the environment from using up more land.

Then I heard this group say that the suburbs must build low income housing so people can live where the jobs are because there is not adequate transportation for them to get there from the city.

Now I ask where are you with the Mayor's comments?

All depends on viewpoint Mayor - economics oriented, political agenda,

Another member said that we need to address all of the above problems. No one size fits all. Desire to want to address problem mayor is political, not concerned with people.

Affordable housing needs to be spread out.

Low-income people need a support system.

---

## **COMMON THREADS**

Discussion:

- The group works with discussion material 24/7 – material not new

## **COMMON THEMES**

Solutions

- Education segregation unforced might be good
- Forced busing may not be good
- Neighborhood schools are important to have partner with community based programs
- State should fill-in \$ needed for schools

## **AREAS OF AGREEMENT**

- Quality & types of so many schools choices + unequal education & it is complicated
- Shortage of culturally specific teachers (self reflective role model [male])
- Equitable funding for all schools
- Smaller the school better the education
- In need of affordable/safe & clear definition of this
- Segregation still exists
- Demographics – could be more positive and clearer

## **ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS**

All

- Be mutual accountability between institutions to the community
- Listen to the community
- Work closely with community leadership
- Leadership will emerge from within community
- 

Schools

- Education/role in community center
- Police self
- Welcoming
- Documentation of problems
- Adequate training for teachers, etc

State Government

- Enact new legislation to mandate funding for schools/housing, etc. (basics)

City

- Provide resources
- Management of resources

Met Council

- Plan regionally
- Implement plan
- Broker of partnership collaboration

#### Business Community

- Pay livable wages
- Be a vehicle for public service info., ed, (lessons for living given at the work place)

#### Neighborhood Organizations

- Provide training to community members for involvement
- Have pep rallies
- Be a watch dog
- Serve as a liaison from community to the institutions
- Work with the religious community

#### Religious community

- Keepers of the community values & vision
- Educate on the golden rule/reconciliation
- Public theology Spiritual – LOVING OF WHOLE

#### The responsibility of the community as a whole

1. get involved (all must be involved for change to happen)
2. community is comprised of individuals each must act and be invited
3. be informed
4. continually ask the critical questions
5. Vote!
6. Represent all of the community members

#### **ACTION IDEAS**

Individual: Vote, become facilitators for Community Circles and other groups

Group: This Community Circle must bring the community circles to the schools

Organization: Lunch hour – once week community circles could be held for working

Parents.

Contact: school board/civics teacher parent assn.

Remove barriers to attending

Community: Leadership for community circles from the community

Remove barriers to attending: mileage, wages, transportation, day care

To get any of the above actions to happen there is a need for some Marketing – telling the benefits of attending.

“Call to Action Forum” will be in the fall and all attendees will receive a notice of this.

All were encouraged to call Barb Rose and let her know that they are interested in starting more community circles.

**FAX COVER SHEET**

**Date:** 3-24-99

**From:** Kathleen R. McGrane  
**Address:** 1675 Valerie Lane  
New Brighton, MN 55112  
**Phone:** (612) 636-1650  
651  
**Faxing From:** (612) 636-0139

**To:** Barb Rose

**Address:** Wilder  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** 651-659-6031

**Fax:** 651-642-2088

**Number of pages including this cover sheet** 4

# Community Circle Report Form

## Session #1: Getting Started

Sponsoring Organization: RAP Date: 2-23-99

Meeting Location: 450 Syndicate St. Paul Number of Participants: 8

Facilitator: Kathy McGrane Scribe: Kirk Hayes

\*\*\*\*\*

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about experiences with racism or segregation which your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Parents or siblings of participants were <sup>very</sup> prejudiced in almost all members present

2. Some members present have a significant other who is not of the same race even though their family was prejudiced.

3. Prejudices seem to be more directed toward African Americans/Blacks than other ethnic groups

4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

Felt we needed a more diverse group (racial/sex or gender) without which ~~we~~ it is hard to get a feeling of different.

*attachment  
Notes 2-23  
from*

Cities at Work  
Midway Community Circle Dialogue

Notes from 2/23/99

Participants were asked to introduce themselves, give a brief description of where they were born and raised and how this influence their racial beliefs.

Facilitator asked what stood out in the life stories that were heard today (2/23/99)?

- Common happy childhood experiences.
- Surprised at the similarities of life stories.
- Struck with commonalities of experiences-in family members expressing racist views or tendencies but where those same individuals had or two relationships with members of a different race where race did not matter.
- Parents/older sibling very prejudiced.
- Prejudices seem to be directed more toward African-Americans/Blacks than other ethnic groups.

How are you different as a result of this mornings conversation? What new awareness will you bring into your life?

- Don't feel different now.
- Without a more diverse group (racial/sex or gender) it is hard to get a feeling of differences.

# Community Circle Report Form

Session #2: What are the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities?

Sponsoring Organization: RAP Date: 3-2-99

Meeting Location: 450 Syndicate St. Paal Number of Participants: 7

Facilitator: Kathy McGrane Scribe: Kathy McGrane  
Kirk Hayes - Didn't get his Notes

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

- Stability of neighborhoods making them work. Need to look beyond perceptions. People rate others by perception not fact. Nonachievement is a label. Publicity & news media are negative.
- Institutional Racism is the KEY to problem of segregation (Story #3), this is the way it is everyday. Public policy & economic trends
- Economics allows us to exercise choice  
affordable housing (for who?)

4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

We went over the demographics - the group felt they were very negative - also media is negative. I asked them to come prepared with some positive happening in their neighborhood that could be reported to the media. They will share this when we do introductions.

*attachment  
Notes 3-2-99*

RAP Community Circle Dialogue  
March 2, 1999

Discussion Notes on Demographics:

About Schools:

- Incomplete
- Mobility rate was higher
- Think bias crimes are higher or are under reported
- Think that sexual harassment & Bias crimes are reported together
- Data is obsolete
- No information about students of color who are achieving
- All statistics are from an adult point of perspective and way of coping disregards what youth cope with.
- Participant said those student achievement disparities between city and suburb not accurate.
- Concern about teachers coping not students coping
- In regards to teen pregnancy give the number of ethnicity of school staff and counselor information

About Housing:

- Bullet number one and number 11 contradict
- The way information is shared is piecemeal
- Regional median income what does regional mean
- Need a clear definition of low income
- Need clear definition of affordable and safe housing
- ~~Bullet number 12 is not affordable housing~~
- Full time workers at what wage and benefit level are you referring to?
- For bullets 18 & 19 what are the percent and numbers?

About Our Community:

- Reaganomics won
- The demographics are concentrated on African Americans, what about immigrants, American Indians and S.E. Asians?

About Our Economy:

- The key is that less than half of the jobs in Mpls. And St. Paul pay what is considered a livable wage
- What do the writers of these demographics mean by Minorities and what do they mean by people of color it seems at times that they are being used interchangeably.
- Where are the positives everything about the demographics are negative.

Did You Know:

- Light rail is not designed to move low income to jobs out of the city.

*transportation*

*Demographics are broken up to be misleading*

*Region includes 5 Co. Metro Not just Mpls St Paul or Ramsey? Ham?*

Segregation in Housing:

1. Racial prejudice and discrimination cause people to live apart  
And sooo...

2. High crime and poor schools drive people away.

Stability of neighborhood makes them work.  
Need to look beyond perception  
Rated by perception not searching for fact.  
Publicity & news is negative

3. Institutional racism in housing, hiring, and education leads to inequities.

This is the KEY  
High crime drives people out - they quit  
This number 3 is the reason for segregation  
Amen this is the way it is everyday  
Non achievers is a label  
Why alternative schools ?

4. People like to live where they have "elbow room."

Disagree #3 is the cause  
Not enough truth  
Economics allows us to exercise choice

5. Public policy and economic trends promote and maintain divisions among people.

Pushed her button - affordable housing enough to "who"  
Mayor Coleman said that St. Paul has more than our fair share of low-income housing

Class in the neighborhood  
↓  
income level  
→ property tax more school money

Mix of economic segments  
in community  
allows balance between  
schools

**Community Circle Report**  
**March 16, 1999**

A new member joined the Circle: Kate Sang (United Way)

Intros included one good thing about the neighborhood you live in.

Questions were raised as to whether or not it is "MN nice" that we have African-Americans in positions of power? Or, is it deeper than that the response: "Words are a veil. Underneath is the Reality." Where are the minorities in the trades, unions, and mid-level managers?

The facilitator reminded the group that the concerns and comments that had been brought up at the last meeting need to be put in writing and documented. She then distributed another statistical report.

Generally, the group felt that these statistics might be skewed also (Example: "Crime is higher in poor neighborhoods." This may be due to underreporting of crime).

Kathy explained that these statistics quoted their source, which, therefore, they could be researched.

Paul French should be used as a resource to reach the media and how to write articles. He has a video and huge file re getting stuff into media. Randy had a question about sex harassment in the schools she was referred to call Barb Rose at Wilder 651-659-6031.

? regarding "exclusionary zoning" Concentrated poverty 40% or more of neighborhood/census tract (? Are these passed by # of units or geographic size, etc.)

Reason for segregation – comments are missing items – Classism (Financially based)  
Need economic mixing area (which affect, school, etc.)

Page 9 in book – viewpoints – housing:

What stood out for you?

1. How to file class action lawsuits: long term Vs short-term person needs info to do, other to join with, legal help, meanwhile "where do they live?!"
2. Special tax breaks to private investors
3. Exclusionary housing "Affordable housing (definition needed) per legislation 50% of you income (of median income [based on?])  
Transportation Public not adequate  
Not enough percentage of new units for housing to make a dent in the Community, many communities.
4. Housing rates have gone up 'outsiders buying up property. Coleman comments in paper – leadership  
Some folks want to rent not own a home.

5. want to do employer assisted housing in Washington County. Concern with strings attached to employers corp. \$s to communities.

6. **WRONG!** Snort... Only attractive to the moneymakers only. Might be safety issues! Combine a;; the viewpoints or key items choose the best points and put them together

7. **Discrimination** – What steps can be taken by communities to help assuage the situation?

Provide livable wage jobs – want same choice as person who is (middle class) get rid of labels, biases, they are hurtful, stop using them.

Rent regulations do not exist.

Communities – education and mixing: Getting together with other races and groups help to form alliances to assist.

“Right” people not here: (“pay them”) so that they may leave their jobs for two hours. Have meetings at lunchtime or before work.

Vacant dilapidated houses 960s – Race problem – Nat’l Guard would be called in)

The Guard could rehab these homes they are trained to do this. Are they armed for force or armed for peace, could they be a task force or a task group?

Summary: Kathy

**Community Circle**  
**RAP Center**  
**3-23-99**

**Session #4**

New members Dan Le SMRLS (Housing Attorney – this group critical federal funding also connected to city's use of money.)

Highlights turf war between drug dealers & contractors.

Intros again

Concern re: Circle's methodology/focus: Kathy reviewed what a circle is not (Focus group, and town meeting or mediation)

Article in paper re: number of units being available to low income.

Next session in Room #201

Dan talked about nonprofit

Education this session is the topic.

McKnight \$s will help Livable Communities Act

80% median income for home ownership

50% median income<sup>3</sup> for rental

1% should be done by legislature for housing

Ways to communicate good information to media (info).

- St. Paul City Company Comp. Housing Plan being voted on tomorrow at 3:30 PM  
Blakey is proposing a 30%  
Lantry & Coleman proposing 50%

Call your person and advocate: No public comment period, but media will be there tomorrow, vote around 4:00 PM

Concern re: lack of short-term suggestions/solutions from city. Need for clarification: current plan better than no plan. Council member Blakey or Coleman's proposal would go into effect almost immediately. Dan Le said to get graph: 651-222-5863

50% of homeless pop. Work full time!

\*Big gap between \$s spent on low income housing vs. demolition

Next Week: Do all of the reading. Bring all housing related information that you have documented.

? Re: state of school teachers: were the guideline increased (ex. 1000 to 4000, or influx of more folks cause the problem?)

**Community Circles**  
**RAP Center St. Paul**  
**3-30-99**  
**Kathy McGrane facilitator**  
**Connie took notes Kathy wordprocessed**

**Session #5 last session for this circle**

**Review of last session.**

Homefront: different dynamics now than when circle members went to school: latchkey kids, parents come home tired, sometimes kids by themselves.

Reading: libraries, after school programs, tutoring would help.

OJT programs can be detrimental especially if ---

**Review of the past weeks:**

Group disagreed with the demographics somewhat

We need a definition of low income, affordable safe housing, Region

Talked about what was happening in community didn't have source of info.

Group did not want a planned agenda

Group thought the wrong people were in the circle

Group was not sure how to get the right people here

Group questioned the increase in free or reduced school lunches

Facilitator told the group that the information the members of this circle have is where the answers are and to move forward with action it was suggested that we use each other as resources. Paul - media ++, Cheri & Elizabeth - HUD, Ike - men of color, Liz Stevens - youth, and Randy - Women Venture etc.

Paul commented that there have been no new written policies on rentals.

? Is it ok for mayor's remarks re: low income housing not the responsibility of St. Paul to build more low-income housing.

Question asked by facilitator because of the comments made by the group throughout the previous 4 sessions:

First there was anger at the mayor's comments didn't think it was St. Paul's job to build more low-income housing.

Then I heard someone say that suburbs have higher income housing and so they collect more taxes and therefore have better schools.

Then I heard that Frog town wasn't sure the nonprofit program should own housing units because they would then not generate revenue which St. Paul needs to build more low income housing and better education and pay for community based programs.

Then I heard that the \$170,000 town home will not house the needy low income and, they will supply a tax base revenue and they will keep people especially professionals and elderly, etc. from moving to suburbs and they will keep the environment from using up more land.

Then I heard this group say that the suburbs must build low income housing so people can live where the jobs are because there is not adequate transportation for them to get there from the city.

Now I ask where are you with the Mayor's comments?

All depends on viewpoint Mayor - economics oriented, political agenda,

Another member said that we need to address all of the above problems. No one size fits all. Desire to want to address problem mayor is political, not concerned with people.

Affordable housing needs to be spread out.

Low-income people need a support system.

---

## **COMMON THREADS**

Discussion:

- The group works with discussion material 24/7 – material not new

## **COMMON THEMES**

Solutions

- Education segregation unforced might be good
- Forced busing may not be good
- Neighborhood schools are important to have partner with community based programs
- State should fill-in \$ needed for schools

## **AREAS OF AGREEMENT**

- Quality & types of so many schools choices + unequal education & it is complicated
- Shortage of culturally specific teachers (self reflective role model [male])
- Equitable funding for all schools
- Smaller the school better the education
- In need of affordable/safe & clear definition of this
- Segregation still exists
- Demographics – could be more positive and clearer

## **ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS**

All

- Be mutual accountability between institutions to the community
- Listen to the community
- Work closely with community leadership
- Leadership will emerge from within community
- 

Schools

- Education/role in community center
- Police self
- Welcoming
- Documentation of problems
- Adequate training for teachers, etc

State Government

- Enact new legislation to mandate funding for schools/housing, etc. (basics)

City

- Provide resources
- Management of resources

Met Council

- Plan regionally
- Implement plan
- Broker of partnership collaboration

#### Business Community

- Pay livable wages
- Be a vehicle for public service info., ed, (lessons for living given at the work place)

#### Neighborhood Organizations

- Provide training to community members for involvement
- Have pep rallies
- Be a watch dog
- Serve as a liaison from community to the institutions
- Work with the religious community

#### Religious community

- Keepers of the community values & vision
- Educate on the golden rule/reconciliation
- Public theology Spiritual – LOVING OF WHOLE

#### The responsibility of the community as a whole

1. get involved (all must be involved for change to happen)
2. community is comprised of individuals each must act and be invited
3. be informed
4. continually ask the critical questions
5. Vote!
6. Represent all of the community members

#### ACTION IDEAS

Individual: Vote, become facilitators for Community Circles and other groups

Group: This Community Circle must bring the community circles to the schools

Organization: Lunch hour – once week community circles could be held for working Parents.

Contact: school board/civics teacher parent assn.

Remove barriers to attending

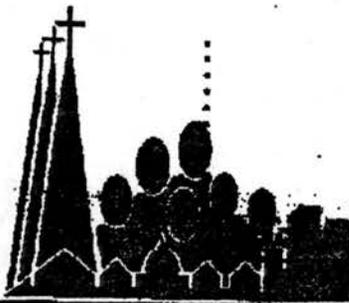
Community: Leadership for community circles from the community

Remove barriers to attending: mileage, wages, transportation, day care

To get any of the above actions to happen there is a need for some Marketing – telling the benefits of attending.

“Call to Action Forum” will be in the fall and all attendees will receive a notice of this.

All were encouraged to call Barb Rose and let her know that they are interested in starting more community circles.



Saint Paul Area Council of Churches  
Congregations in Community  
1671 Summit Avenue  
Saint Paul MN 55105-1884  
(651) 646-8805, extension 19  
(651) 646-6866 (fax)

**Saint Paul Area Council of Churches**

1671 Summit Avenue • Saint Paul, MN 55105-1884 • (651) 646-8805 • FAX: 646-6866

**To:** Barb Rose **Fax:** (651) 642-2088

---

**From:** Robert G. Walz, Director **Date:** 06/23/99

---

**Re:** Community Circle on Housing ... **Pages:** 3

---

**CC:** Dick Little, Tom Duke ; Wade Schermele

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

**Notes:** Attached is a summary of the recommendations that Public Policy Committee adopted from a report it received from the Interfaith Discussion Group on Race, Schools and Housing (Community Circles).

Other material will follow at a later date.

# Memorandum

To: Board of Directors  
CC: Dick Little, Barb Rose, Rev. Tom Duke  
From: Rev. Wade Schemmel  
Date: 06/23/99  
Re: Recommendations of Public Policy Committee

The recommendations originated as recommendations of the Communities at Work / Education and Housing Equity Project Interfaith Discussion on Race, Schools and Housing

1. Institutional racism is a root cause impacting schools, housing and society. The mission of the Council is to *building life-giving, just and anti-racist community.* It is recommended that Council expand its anti-racism training to member congregations, program affiliates, and the community at-large.
2. To effectively address institutional racism and other systematic issues, communities of faith should exercise its role of moral discernment and leadership. It is recommended that the Council actively support "Renew the Public Church" initiative and strengthen its public policy links to congregations.
3. It is recommended that the Council support public policy initiatives and other efforts that foster inclusive and ethnically diverse communities.
4. Income, technology and education gaps between the rich and the poor are increasing. It is recommended that Saint Paul Area Council of Churches support public policies and tax policies which would narrow those gaps.
5. There is a crisis in affordable housing for low-income households. It is recommended that the Council be an advocate for affordable housing and encourage congregations to become the campaign for affordable housing.

#### Summary of Discussions:

1. Racism is an underlying cause to metropolitan segregation, in particular, concentration of people of color and poor in the central cities. Action step: attend public hearing on Housing Plan.



June 23, 1999

2. Few whites under the concept of "white privilege." Action step: attend affordable housing demonstration at State Capitol.
3. Increase the supply of affordable housing for low-income households throughout the metropolitan area and provide "mentoring" to low-income households on responsibilities of renting and owning. Action step: attend the Community Dialogue on Facing the Truth in Minnesota, a conversation exploring local issues of race and reconciliation at MSU on April 8 and watch series on KTCA.
4. Strongly opposed to charter schools, school vouchers or creation of metropolitan-wide school district. Support focus on integrated, multi-culturally inclusive schools, if possible "neighborhood" schools, and with greater funding equity between rich and poor school districts. Action Step: Attend the April 22 CIC Conference and April 28 Cities at-work Forum "Stop Talking, Just Do it!" at Arlington High School, 5:00-8:30 PM. Also, attend Rally at City Hall on Affordable Housing on April 28<sup>th</sup>, Noon.
5. Action Steps. See above. Also, attend next Cities-at-work forum: Face-to-face, How We Interact, Thursday, May 18, 1999, 5:00 to 8:30 PM at Bandana Square Banquet and Conference Center (Energy Park Drive and Lexington Avenue). Free and dinner provided. Call 651-642-2088 to register.
6. Attend Gateways to Justice forums. Next one: Immigrant Issues on Wednesday, June 2, 1999, 5:30 - 7:00 PM at Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, 1671 Summit Avenue. Free and snack provided. Call 651-646-8805x22 to register. Also, in October a joint Gateways to Justice - Cities-at-work forum, Beyond Tolerance, call to action - practical solutions to reducing racism and promoting cultural awareness / diversity.