



# NEWS



## PHILADELPHIA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 3, 2013**

### **PHILADELPHIA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING AT HISTORIC GIRARD COLLEGE TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS OF FAIRMOUNT/BREWERYTOWN**

*Philadelphia, April 3, 2013* -- The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) will hold its next Public Meeting at the historic Girard College to hear from residents and business owners of the Fairmount/Brewerytown area of the city.

This meeting will address the controversial portrayal of intergroup relations in the Fairmount/Brewerytown area from the article 'Being White in Philly', which appeared in the February issue of *Philadelphia Magazine*. PCHR Executive Director Rue Landau said, "We are interested in hearing from more residents in that area about the reality of their intergroup relations and recommendations on how to improve those relations."

Last month, the Commission sent a letter to the editor of the *Philadelphia Magazine*, Tom McGrath, expressing its concern about the Magazine's cover story and inviting McGrath and his colleagues to attend the Commission's meeting in the Fairmount/Brewerytown area.

Acting Chairperson, Thomas Earle, stated “The PCHR stands ready to help improve dialogue in the community and create more opportunities for strong intergroup relations.” Earle continued, “We take seriously our mission of resolving conflicts and diffusing intergroup tension throughout all of Philadelphia’s neighborhoods. We recognize that in changing communities, tensions can arise from increasing diversity with regard to race, class/income, national origin, age, disability, religion, and sexual orientation as well as myriad other factors, whether real or perceived. We want to focus on concrete sources of conflict, help alleviate tension and promote positive intergroup interaction.”

The Commission chose to hold its meeting at the historic Girard College, a school that faced the challenge of change when it was forced to desegregate in 1968. The school ultimately embraced its diverse student body and is a pillar of academic strength in Philadelphia. Significantly, Girard College is located between the Fairmount and Brewerytown neighborhoods.

The Fairmount/Brewerytown meeting will be the first in a series of public meetings that the Commission will hold in other Philadelphia neighborhoods that are experiencing changes in their residents and diversity.

The Commission’s Public Meeting is scheduled for  
**Thursday, April 18 from 6-8pm**  
**Girard College - Lower School**  
**2101 S College Ave** (front gate - W. Girard Ave & Corinthian St.)

For more information, contact the Commission at 215-686-4670 or at [www.phila.gov/humanrelations](http://www.phila.gov/humanrelations).



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The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations Community Relations Division staff works with community leaders, neighborhood organizations, local businesses, schools, and the police to mediate conflicts and promote intergroup harmony within Philadelphia’s diverse communities. In addition, the PCHR enforces all statutes and ordinances prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing or in using a public facility based on a person’s race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. The PCHR also processes applications of same-sex couples who wish to register their life partnerships with the City. Any victims of discrimination should contact the PCHR for more information on how to file a complaint.

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