

Hip City gets a thumbs up on human relations

FREEHOLD – The Monmouth County Human Relations Commission (MCHRC) thinks Red Bank has the right stuff – and not because of its great shopping or delicious dining.

The Borough gets compliments from the Commission because it's one of just five (5), out 53, municipalities in the county that has a human relations committee. (The others are all outside of the triCities, so the hell with them. Oh all right – they're Freehold Borough, Freehold Township, Middletown and Wall Township.)

The MCHRC wants to spread the word on the fab five in order to encourage other communities to form similar committees.

"Human rights problems are best dealt with at the grass roots level, where citizens may contact members with whom they are familiar and where local needs and nuances are understood," they state in a news release.

The group is also currently revising their resource guide for schools, called "Bridging Cultural Bridges" and encourage other organizations to submit to them ideas or programs dealing with cultural diversity that may be utilized in the classroom.

The MCHRC meets next Monday, December 6 at 3:30 PM in Conference Room #139 in the Human Services Building, 3000 Kozloski Road, Freehold. They meet the first Monday of every month at that location.

The Commission operates a hotline for victims of bias incidents throughout the county; dial 732-303-7666 to report hate/bias incidents. The 24-hour hotline is staffed with trained personnel from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays and answered by a machine at other hours. The public is urged to use the hotline to report hate or bias incidents relating to age, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, national origin, or other factors. All reports are confidential.

Additionally, if you'd like to check out what they have to offer, the MCHRC has available to all segments of the community a "Speakers' Bureau," which will gladly come to any group or organization that would like to have a forum for discussion on any of the many aspects of advancing the best of human relations.

Contact Carolyn Schwebel at 732-291-4257 for further information, or log onto www.visitmonmouth.com/humanrelations.

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