

HUMAN RELATIONS INITIATIVE

AWARENESS & EDUCATION LESSON THE INDIVIDUAL DETAINMENT AND ARREST OF A PRIVATE CITIZEN, RACE RELATIONS, & A CALL FOR DIALOGUE IN THE COMMUNITY

Human Relations Initiative, Inc. is a non-partisan organization which advocates for cultural social transformation by advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through awareness, education, and dialogue (mission statement).

A component of the portfolio of services is **Awareness & Education Engagements**. Therefore, we respectfully share the following information as a resource.

In August 2020, Human Relations Initiative, Inc. learned of the initial detainment and subsequent arrest of a private citizen. We immediately and directly reached out to elected and/or appointed officials to request an opportunity to meet. In part, we stated the following:

“The focus of the Human Relations Initiative, Inc. is on the multiple manifestations of discrimination and oppression that are based on one's religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic, social class, age, and/or mental/physical ability – the spectrum of all human differences. Through human relations work, advocacy, and social justice initiatives; we assist all in understanding diversity, appreciating cultural differences, engaging, facilitating, and participating in respectful dialogue, and practicing effective cross-cultural interactions.”

“Human Relations Initiative, Inc is aware that certain statements made, coupled with language and choice of words used, have uprooted even more hatred, division, anger, unrest, and fear. Some interpret that they are lacking compassion, understanding, and respect. However, there were other statements that were found to include overall background of climate, decision-making processes, and different perspectives of the necessary steps that must be taken both immediately and forward.”

“To establish stronger efforts to promote racial equity, and to improve race relations; there must be a call for dialogue with citizens, neighbors, local groups, community leaders, elected, and appointed officials. If provided the opportunity, we are prepared to collaborate and provide our services to support.”

The objective was to convey the immediate availability and share how our services could assist resolution efforts. Concurrently, there was also an offer of partnership expressed for both short-term and long-term collaboration.

The goal was to provide education, reduce the risk of escalation, and work to limit and/or remove additional harm to any individual or group threatened.

MISSION STATEMENT

Human Relations Initiative, Inc. is a non-partisan organization which advocates for cultural social transformation by advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through awareness, education, and dialogue.