



*“One Nation Working Together,
For Justice and Equality
Everywhere”*

Berkshire County Branch, NAACP

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August 15, 2016

Dr. William Travis
Chair, Steering Committee
Pittsfield Community Connection
10 Wendell Ave Extension 2nd Floor
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear Dr. Travis,

The Mission Statement of the NAACP is “One Nation Working Together, For Justice and Equality Everywhere.”

In this spirit the Berkshire County Branch of the NAACP is reaching out to the Steering Committee of the Pittsfield Community Connection (PCC) in the hope of opening a dialogue in an effort to get some answers to some questions regarding the operation of your organization.

The City of Pittsfield is facing serious challenges. We know that people of color in this Community are disproportionately impacted by these adverse challenges. Challenges such as unemployment, lack of training for jobs, finding adequate affordable housing, lack of diversity in the workforce and disparate treatment of African-American students in the public school system are of great concern to us. The NAACP cherishes its role as the voice for people of color who often have no voice to speak to institutions of power in this City.

Accordingly, we are asking you to respond to the following concerns: 1. It has come to our attention that at least two people of color have been terminated from your program. While we are not aware of the circumstances, we would like you to explain your hiring and firing policy/procedures. 2. We are also requesting information about the cultural competence and mandated reporting training provided to your staff. 3. From the inception of PCC can you tell us how you have met the requirements for hiring as called for in the Affirmative Action Ordinance adopted by the City Council of Pittsfield? 4. Can you tell us the procedure you follow to pay staff and other participants in the program?

We look forward to hearing from you. Please know that we are anxious to learn more about your program because we want to work with you whenever and wherever we can.

Sincerely

Dennis L. Powell
President, Berkshire County Unit NAACP

Cc. Mayor Linda Tyer
Chief Michael Wynn
Dir. Jon Schnauber