

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE SPONSORS OF THE ROCKFORD SUMMIT ON RACISM

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## Rockford Summit on Racism



May 4, 2023

The Rockford Park District  
UW Health Sports Factory



# Proclamation

*Promoting Unity, Belonging, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*

**Whereas**, all community organizations have some potential barriers in the way of policies, procedures and practices, and every individual citizen lacks a complete understanding of the history of these barriers and the negative impact on people of these barriers, and

**Whereas**, people are much more comfortable around other people who think, believe, and look like them and people understand, learn, and grow more when they are around people who are different than them and

**Whereas**, the Rockford Summit on Racism will bring together a diversity of people who want to create a better community for all of our citizens and provide them with opportunities to share and learn from each other and

**Whereas**, this will provide summit participants of different races, ethnicities, genders, religions, incomes, sexual orientations, and political parties opportunities to create ways to work together to improve our community and

**Whereas**, neither this proclamation, nor the Rockford Summit on Racism, will bring about the transformation of individuals and organizations that is necessary to create a community where everyone feels valued, seen, heard, and feels like they belong and

**Whereas**, we recognize that it will require each person and organization in our community becoming consciously aware of the need for them to do their part by interacting with others with respect, dignity, kindness, courtesy, and civility, in order for us to create a community where everyone wants to live and

**Now, therefore, let us resolve**, that we, citizens of the Rockford area, hereby reaffirm our value for each other, and our commitment, in our thoughts, words, and deeds, to each do our part to create a community in which everyone has the opportunity to achieve their potential and, thus, contribute to the betterment of life for us all.



# Vendors

Alignment Rockford
Baha'i Faith
Belonging
City of Rockford
CUB-Citizen Utility Board: Solar Programs
Declarations of Interdependence
Equip for Equality
Habitat for Humanity
Inscope
Interfaith Community Garden
Interfaith Gardens
Keller Williams Realty
Kreativ Productions & Solutions
Owls Roost Farm
Rockford Park District
Rockford Public Schools
Rockford Urban Ministries
Zion Lutheran Church

# Thank You!

Rockford Park District for the use of UW Sports Factory	All volunteers, panelists & all program participants	Kreativ Productions & Solutions, Tremayne Meadows: Bag, Lanyard, Pen, Sign Design	Deb Bieschke: Vendors
Midway Village and Laura Furman for copying flyers etc.	Eliminate Racism 815 Action Teams: Workshops Plans	Jane Lightcap: Registration	Shirley Simmons and Marilyn Board: Food
Zion Lutheran Church for all your support and for copying the Programs	Rebecca Quirk: Website creation & Designing and Monitoring online registration	Kayla Acton: Technical Assistance	Karen Johnson: Program Design





# Relationship Building Workshops

Eliminate Racism 815 Relationship Action Team: Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 6:00 pm. For more information email to Jim Roberts: [jarob401@aol.com](mailto:jarob401@aol.com)

**Mission: To radically alter divisive social patterns by building genuine relationships across racial, religious, class and cultural differences.**

## 10:30-11:45 Workshop 1

- 1) What is being done right now in Rockford to Eliminate Racism?

Relationship Building Moderator: Jim Roberts, Relationship Action Team Co-leader

Janice Forrest Patriot's Gateway	Rev. Gary Schwerin Clergy Leaders Group	Ellyn Ahmer Belonging Task Force	L.C. Wilson Eliminate Racism Action Team
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## 1:30-2:45 Workshop 2

- 1) What do you want Rockford to be like in 5 years?

Role Play dynamics with Kathryn Brown, L.C. Wilson, Jim Roberts and Ruthie Wilson followed by small group process, then large group reflections/interaction.

## 3:00-4:15 Workshop 3

- 1) Where do we go from here? How can we work together?

Role play dynamics with Kathryn Brown, L.C. Wilson, Jim Roberts, and Ruthie Wilson, followed by small group process, and then large group brings together a list of 3-5 priority goals that have surfaced.

*You are invited!*

**May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

### Follow-up potluck/meeting

Pilgrim Baptist Church  
1703 S. Central Ave.

Each team will present the priority issues they have identified.  
Future plans for collaboration on these priority issues will be discussed.



# Welcome

May 4, 2023

Our Dear Co-Workers in Building a Better Community,

Welcome to The Rockford Summit on Racism. We are very excited about **you** being a part of creating this unique opportunity for our community. Eliminate Racism 815 did not make the Summit happen alone. So many of you in attendance today have helped plan, organize, and prepare for this event. The Summit offers us an opportunity to have people interested in creating a community based on unity, belonging, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, come together and create a common vision of what our future holds for us. However, our greatest challenge will begin after the Summit ends.

This Summit is just the beginning of a long effort requiring patience and persistence, unity and cooperation, relationship building and valuing everyone involved doing the required work, as well as valuing those who do not join the effort. This work will require respect, courtesy, kindness, and civility to build relationships between individuals and between organizations.

The time for division and disunity has long ago proven that it will not bring about our desired goals. We can only do that by calling forth our best selves: "loving our neighbors", being the adults in the room when others are not and working well with others. These are the things we were all taught as children and, in the chaos of our daily lives, we have forgotten them. Now it's time to remember.

What an exciting time! What a challenging opportunity!

We thank **you** for your participation today and for the work that you will do in the months that follow the Summit.

Our warmest regards and gratitude,

### The Board of Directors

#### Eliminate Racism 815

Dick Rundall, President  
Ron Simmons, Vice President  
Marilyn Board, Recording Secretary  
Ann Rundall, Corresponding Secretary

Earle Rowe, Treasurer  
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Board  
Rev. Jim Roberts  
Wendy Bennett, Esq



# Agenda

- 8:15 - 9:00** Registration & Continental Breakfast & Vendor Visits
- 9:00 – 9:10** Welcome by Mayor Thomas McNamara  
Honoring the Original Inhabitants by Dick Rundall  
Introductions by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Board  
Prayer by Pastor Michael Thomas, Zion Lutheran Church  
Special words by Rev. Maurice West Sr., President of Rockford Ministers' Fellowship
- 9:10 - 9:15** Opening Music: Please Stand for the singing of the "The Star Spangled Banner" led by Terrica Huntley from Rock Valley College and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" led by Bev Owens from Pilgrim Baptist Church.
- 9:15 - 10:00** Community Panel: Panel members will talk about what their organization is doing to eliminate racism.  
Moderator: Rev. Dr. Kenneth Board

### Community Panelists

Chief Carla Redd Rockford Police Department	Mayor Thomas McNamara City of Rockford	Dr. Ehren Jarrett Rockford Public Schools #205	Becky Kendall Rockford Regional Health Council	Keri Asevedo Belonging Coalition/Habitat for Humanity
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- 10:00-10:10** East High School Chamber Choir Directed by Lisa Shimon—We Shall Overcome (traditional)  
Oye (arr.. Papoulis) Shed a Little Light (James Taylor tribute to Martin Luther King)
- 10:10-10:15** Rev. Dr. Ken Board Our task for the day is...
- 10:15 – 10:30** Transition
- 10:30-11:45** **Workshop 1** (See Map for Criminal Justice, Economic Opportunities, Education, Health and Relationship Building Workshop Locations)
- 11:45 – 12:30** Box Lunch (Location: Near Vendor Area)
- 12:30** Welcome Back: Rev Dr. Ken Board
- 12:30 – 1:15** District 205 Youth Panel (Location: Stage Area)  
Moderator: Bo Chaney & Tony Turner

### Auburn High School Student Panelists

Rakim Chaney	Brennan Horton-Lee	Patrick "PJ" Dubose	Alivia Brown	Lamar'vyar Clark
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- 1:15-1:20** Rev. Dr. Ken Board Challenge
- 1:20-1:30** Transition
- 1:30-2:45** **Workshops 2** Criminal Justice, Economic Opportunities, Education, Health and Relationship Building
- 2:45-3:00** Snack Break
- 3:00-4:15** **Workshops 3** Criminal Justice, Economic Opportunities, Education, Health and Relationship Building



# Health Workshops

**Eliminate Racism 815 Health Action Team : For more information email Ruth Larson: [rjaslar@gmail.com](mailto:rjaslar@gmail.com)**

**Mission: The Eliminate Racism 815 Health Action Team is an advocacy and research group of diverse health professionals and community members working to ensure that BOPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities can attain their highest potential for health and well-being.**

**Goals will focus on Mental Health, Food Security, and Nature Exposure.**

If you are interested in joining this new team, please send your contact information to: Ruth Larson at [rjaslar@gmail.com](mailto:rjaslar@gmail.com) or Miranda Grisales-Buell at [miranda@healinghomeeayurveda.com](mailto:miranda@healinghomeeayurveda.com)

### 10:30-11:45 Workshop 1 What is being done right now to address health disparities among people of color?

- 1) Is a patient's level of health literacy a consideration when providing services? How do you assess that during the intake procedure?
- 2) What are the concerns you are noticing or hearing as you make efforts to serve BIPOC persons and communities? Are they being served in equitable ways as related to race and ethnicity and if not, what are you doing to ensure that happens?
- 3) We have a mental health crisis and BIPOC people with low earnings especially have limited access on who they see. What is being done to deal with these inequities of healthcare coverage and provision?

**Health Moderator:**

Shelton Kay Crusader Clinic	Christina Gloria Dimensions of Wellness & Transformation	Diego Valdivia La Voz Latina	Anna Taylor UW Health
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### 1:30-2:45 Workshop 2 What does health justice mean to me as an individual or an organization?

- 1) How does your organization address systemic issues inside and outside your organization as you serve BIPOC communities?
- 2) What is being done to encourage providers to prescribe lifestyle changes-diet, exercise, exposure to green spaces, relaxation on a more frequent and genuine basis?
- 3) Are clients/patients being asked about their food security situation as a part of the intake process: What is being done with this information?
- 4) How are you disseminating information about health to our community in an effective and intentional way?

### 3:00-4:15 Workshop 3 How do we move forward together?

- 1) Should medical facilities work with schools by regularly sending providers to speak about health with classes (similarly to the way banks send financial officers to speak)? Explain.

*You are invited!*

**Follow-up potluck/meeting**

Pilgrim Baptist Church  
1703 S. Central Ave.

**May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

Each team will present the priority issues they have identified.  
Future plans for collaboration on these priority issues will be discussed.



# Education Workshops

**Education Action Team:** Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 4:30 pm. For more information email Ann Rundall: [annrundall@gmail.com](mailto:annrundall@gmail.com)

**Mission:** To be passionate advocates of equity-driven policies and practices in the Rockford Public Schools (RPS205) so that all students will be prepared for social and academic success.

## 10:30-11:45 Workshop 1

**Moderator:** Sherri Jones, Illinois Education Association

Panel

Dr. Mark Melton: Asst Professor of Education Northeastern Illinois university	Dr. Antoine Reed Chief Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer Rockford Public Schools
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## 1:30-2:45 Workshop 2

**Moderator:** Sherri Jones, Illinois Education Association

Panel

Emily Klonicki Alignment Rockford	Claudia Consuelos Comprehensive Community Solutions	Dr. Keith Barnes Rock Valley College
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## 3:00-4:15 Workshop 3

Attendees will discuss the information they have learned in the previous two workshops with the goal of developing 3-5 strategies that will help RPS205 achieve a diversity, equity, and inclusion focus. Attendees will first participate in facilitated table-top discussions to develop a strategy for their table and then move to whole-group discussions during which each table's strategy will be presented and the group collates these strategies into 3-5 final ones.

*You are invited!*

### Follow-up potluck/meeting

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**May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

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# Songs

## Star Spangled Banner

Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light  
 What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
 O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
 And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
 Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
 O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

## Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing. 'Til Earth and Heaven ring.  
 Ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
 Let our rejoicing rise. High as the listening skies.  
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.  
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
 Facing the rising sun. of our new day begun,  
 Let us march on 'Til victory is won.

God of our weary years, and God of our silent tears.  
 Thou who has brought us thus far on our way.  
 Thou who has by thy might led us into the light.  
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places our God, where we met Thee.  
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.  
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand. May we forever stand. True to God. True to our native land.



# Working Vocabulary

There are multiple definitions for the following words.

We suggest you use these definitions to inform your discussions today.

**Anti-racist:** Conscious and deliberate efforts to challenge the impact and perpetuation on institutional White racial power, presence, and privilege. It is critical that our examination of institutionalized White racism is not viewed as being against White people, rather, it is a way in which people of all races can gain the same level of access and privileges that White people tend to demand, to feel entitled to, and take for granted.

**Bias:** “A preference in favor of, or against a person, group of people, or thing. These initial human reactions, which are often unconscious, are rooted in inaccurate information or reason and are potentially harmful.”

**Cognitive Dissonance:** A psychological term describing the uncomfortable tension that may result from having conflicting thoughts or beliefs at the same time or engaging in behavior that conflicts with those beliefs.

**Color Blind:** Asserts that ending discrimination merely requires treating individuals as equally as possible, without regard to race, culture, or ethnicity. Color-blindness, by overlooking the cumulative and enduring ways in which race unequally shapes life chances and opportunities for people from different groups, actually reinforces and sustains an unequal status quo. By leaving structural inequalities in place, color-blindness has become the “new racism.” It also ignores cultural attributes that people value and deserve to have recognized and affirmed.

**Colorism:** “Within-group and between-group prejudice in favor of lighter skin color.”

**Implicit Bias:** Attitudes or stereo types that effect our understanding, actions and decisions in an unconscious manner.

**Critical Race Theory:** Refers to a way of analyzing systems, institutions, and power through a lens of race and racism. Central to Critical Race Theory is the idea that many institutions are built on and enforce systemic racism and oppression of people of color, that this racism and oppression have a long history in the US and the world (including slavery and its legacy), and that they are ongoing and driven by white supremacy.



# Economic Opportunities

**Economic Opportunities Action Team** Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm.

For more information email Dick Rundall: dickrundall@gmail.com

**Mission: To reduce economic discrimination and promote equitable economic opportunities in Southwest Rockford through education, social action, and collaboration with governmental, public, and private organizations (Economic discrimination, as defined in Wikipedia, “is discrimination based on economic factors. These factors can include job availability, wages, the prices and/or availability of goods and services, and the amount of capital investment funding available to minorities for business.”)**

## 10:30-11:45 Workshop 1

- 1) What have you been doing to improve economic opportunities and/or to promote development in Southwest Rockford?
- 2) What are you doing that has worked?
- 3) What have you tried that didn't work?
- 4) What are the challenges in doing this work?
- 5) What are your plans for new activities going forward?

**Economic Opportunities Moderator: Rudy Valdez, Rockford Park District Board**

Danielle Potter Rockford Park District	Tim Bragg Rockford Park District	Karl Franzen City of Rockford Community and Economic Development Dept	Staci Brown Keller-Williams Realty
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## 1:30-2:45 Workshop 2 Facilitated small group discussions

- 1) What do you want Rockford to be like in 5 years?

## 3:00-4:15 Workshop 3 Facilitated small group discussions

- 1) Where do we go from here? How can we work together?

You are invited!

May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm

### Follow-up potluck/meeting

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# Criminal Justice Workshops

**Criminal Justice Action Team: Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm. For more information email Steve Delap: [slidelap@aol.com](mailto:slidelap@aol.com)**

**Mission: To eradicate the effects of institutional racism in our criminal justice system through advocacy, direct action and education.**

## 10:30 – 11:45 Workshops 1

- 1) What is being done right now in Rockford to eliminate racism in the Criminal Justice System and what needs to be done?
- 2) What impact have you seen that racism has on the Criminal Justice System in Winnebago County?
- 3) What programs does your organization offer to employees to raise awareness of issues of racism and cultural sensitivity?
- 4) How responsive do you think your organization is to the need for change related to diversity?
- 5) What is the Criminal Justice System doing to stem the flow of guns into our community?

**Moderator: Rev. Joyce Palmer, Unitarian Church and Panel**

J. Hanley States Attorney	Valerie Hanserd Winnebago County Board	Nick Zimmerman Public Defender	Bo Chaney Rockford Fire Department
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## 1:30-2:45 Workshop 2 Facilitated Small Group Discussion *Imagine Rockford without racism in 5 years.*

- 1) What do you think the 3-5 priority issues are that need to be addressed in the criminal Justice system?
- 2) What would have to happen in the Criminal Justice System that would make you feel progress is being made?
- 3) Who do you think is responsible to make the changes needed in the criminal justice system?
- 4) Based on your life experience, how can we get guns off the street?
- 5) What do you think about Community Policing?

## 3:00-4:15 Workshop 3

- 1) What is being done right now in Rockford to eliminate racism in the Criminal Justice System and what needs to be done?
- 2) What impact have you seen that racism has on the Criminal Justice System in Winnebago County?
- 3) What programs does your organization offer to employees to raise awareness of issues of racism and cultural sensitivity?
- 4) What do you think about Community Policing?
- 5) How do you go about creating trust between the Criminal Justice System and our community?

**Moderator: Rev. Joyce Palmer, Unitarian Church and Panel**

Carla Redd Chief of Rockford Police Dept	Paul Cain Criminal Justice Professor	Marlana Dokken Chairman's Office of Criminal Justice Initiatives Winnebago County
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**You are invited!**

**Follow-up potluck/meeting**

May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Pilgrim Baptist Church  
1703 S. Central Ave.

Each team will present the priority issues they have identified.  
Future plans for collaboration on these priority issues will be discussed.



**Discrimination:** The action or practice of treating other people unfairly.

**Diversity:** The range of human differences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs.

**Equality:** Providing everyone with the same number of resources regardless of whether everyone needs them.

**Equity:** An operational belief that enables educators to provide whatever level of support is needed to whichever students require it. In the classroom this means providing each and every student with what each individually needs to learn and succeed.

**Inclusion:** Refers to the intentional, ongoing effort to ensure that diverse individuals fully participate in all aspects of organizational work, including decision-making processes. It also refers to the ways that diverse participants are valued as respected members of an organization and/or community.

**Indigenous:** People that live or come from a particular region or environment. For example indigenous people, indigenous languages, and indigenous culture.

**Marginalized:** To put someone in a powerless position

**Microaggression(s):** A comment or action that subtly and perhaps unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group.

**Prejudice:** An unfair (and potentially) harmful feeling, dislike, or judgment against someone or something.

**Racism:** Any program or practice of racial discrimination that upholds the political, or economic domination of one race over another or others.

**Social justice:** Equal/equitable access to wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.

**Stereotype:** Rigid conclusions about all or many that tend to inquiry and limit possibilities; beliefs based on false generalizations derived from small samplings or unique cases; applies to everyone in every situation, no exceptions, and is often retain even in no longer accurate or useful.

**White Privilege:** At birth the advantages given to white people in the United States due to the societal racism that exists.

Map



Map

