



# CMC News

*A publication of the Center for MultiCultural Communities*

**November 2015**

*President*

Monica Regan

*Executive Director*

Eugene Dumas

*Treasurer*

Nodee McNeal

*Board of Directors*

Ruby Donahue

Cynthia Pryor

Melisa Watson

Therone Watson

The Center for  
MultiCultural Communities  
202 S. Halsted  
Chicago Heights, IL 60411  
708-709-3797  
cmcdirect@gmail.com

## *Message from the Director*

Events continue in our region and throughout the United States that makes us aware that much needs to be done before we are truly an egalitarian society. Daily events emerge that cause us to question how can a region, a state or nation that is as highly educated as ours, and have technical skills to send astronauts to the moon and bring them safely home, almost routinely perform kidney and heart transplants, but get upset when someone from a people group different from their own, move in their neighborhood or shop at the same shopping center they do?

*Eugene Dumas*

## **Retail Redlining**

Why is there still economic racism in the 21st century? Why is it that, despite a good customer base, and regardless of these customers' educational or income level, certain businesses will leave a heterogeneous community and move away to a community that is homogeneous?

When questioned about this tendency, answers vary. For example, one narrative says that "those people" don't read, drink coffee, or give tips large enough to make it affordable for us to have good servers so we are closing our store here and moving west.... Please come to our location there.

Let's attack retail redlining at the cash register. This can be done by patronizing the businesses that remain in our region instead of shopping at a business 18 miles away. The sales taxes you pay there will not benefit your town or village.

Some businesses closed in our region, yet each time we've visited these businesses in another region, we've had to stand in line because they have so many customers.

Let's use our buying power to support businesses that respect heterogeneous communities enough to remain in the region and ensure that local residents can make purchases in their own communities. This is a win-win strategy that benefits the customers, business owners and the city. The longer dollars can remain in a community, the more that community and its residents benefit.



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### **New businesses**

Despite the departure of some businesses from our region, others are locating here. For example, three new businesses recently moved into Flossmoor:

- Tovar Shoe Repair, 1036 Sterling Ave., 708-898-0367
- Royalty Cleaners, 19862 Kedzie Ave., 708-385-5441
- L. J. Graphics, Art & So Much More, 1032 Sterling Ave., 708-960-0626.

When you patronize them and other businesses in our area you keep our dollars in our villages and cities as long as possible.

### **Disrespect in the Marketplace**

How are you treated when you attend a store? How are you greeted? If you are spoken to, are you greeted by "Hello. May I help you?" Or, on the contrary, are you followed and watched as if you are about to steal something? One young Latino lady mentioned to us that she is followed each time she goes to a certain store. A young black man also shared that he is followed when entering stores. All stores do not sanction such practices. We can stop going to establishments that treat us with disrespect.

### **Speak Up, Speak Out Part II**

On Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m., CMC will conduct Part II of our open forum series. In this session, we will continue working on possible solutions that will help solve continuous cultural and racial conflicts.

### **Question of the Month**

Recently, some critics of civil rights advocates have severely criticized advocate organizations by asking why they even exist. They further implied that they exist for selfish reasons, not for the benefit of the oppressed. Shouldn't these critics also ask the question, "Why don't the people these groups advocate for have the same rights all other citizens have?" How long will it be before all Americans have the same rights in reality without the need for special advocates?

### **An Open Invitation**

Come and join us as we work to promote cultural and racial harmony. You may do so with a tax deductible contribution.

Associate membership – \$20

Graduate membership – \$30 plus completion of a workshop