

Civil Rights Night hosted in Jackson



By Elissa Kedziorek | Posted: Thu 3:35 PM, May 23, 2019 | Updated: Thu 4:09 PM, May 23, 2019

JACKSON, MI (WILX) -- The Michigan Department of Civil Rights with community partners will host a Civil Rights Night in Jackson Thursday evening.

Residents of the city of Jackson and the surrounding communities are invited to attend the event and ask questions about civil rights including when and how to file a complaint, what the different agencies involved in civil rights protections do, how they work together and more.

The event will also feature a panel discussion facilitated by John Willis, director of the center, and experts on civil rights in Michigan. Willis was named the 2018 Al Cotton Award Winner after his years of service to the city of Jackson, according to Mlive.

Panelists include Susan K. DeClercq, assistant United States Attorney, chief of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Attorney's Eastern District, James M. Berry, supervisory special agent Federal Bureau of Investigation Ann Arbor Resident Agency; Sylvia J. Elliott, managing attorney, director of the Office of Legal Affairs Michigan Department of Civil Rights; Pamela Kisch, executive director of the Fair Housing Center of Southeast and Mid-Michigan; and Jay Kaplan, LGBT Staff Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

The event is being coordinated by Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust and the Jackson County Branch of the NAACP.

The Civil Rights Night will begin at 6:30p.m. and is being held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center located at 1107 Adrian in Jackson. It will be accessible and translated in American Sign Language.

If you have questions, contact Todd Heywood of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 313-520-7178.

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