

A PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO END THE CINCINNATI BOYCOTT

Introduction:

This document is a proposal intended to form the basis for negotiations in regard to the boycott/sanctions of Cincinnati that have been called by four groups (namely, the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Black United Front, the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Justice, and Stonewall Cincinnati). These negotiations would take place between representatives of these four groups, on the one hand, and Hamilton County, the City of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Business Committee, on the other hand.

This document was written by the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati. The Coalition for a Just Cincinnati asks the Cincinnati Black United Front, the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Justice, Stonewall Cincinnati, the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and the local business community to comment on this plan and help us proceed to workable and fruitful negotiations.

This document first lays out preconditions that must be met before the boycott groups will agree to meet with the other parties to commence talks aimed at resolving problems present in Cincinnati and at ending the economic boycott called by these four groups. It then describes the charge and composition of a Negotiations Steering Committee and four Working Groups, and describes conditions for meetings and a time line for accomplishing goals agreed upon by the Steering Committee and the Working Groups.

It is the hope of the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati that the process described herein will be successful in achieving beneficial change in Cincinnati so that the boycott can be terminated. We would like to initiate these negotiations in the spirit that all parties are interested in making Cincinnati a great place to live and work and that we all agree to work together responsibly and cooperatively to achieve constructive change.

Preconditions:

The following preconditions shall be met to the satisfaction of the four groups that have called for a boycott of Cincinnati before negotiations to end the Cincinnati boycott (described later in this document) shall commence. Meeting these preconditions is a precondition for negotiations, not a sufficient basis on its own to call off the boycott.

The first precondition is that the City of Cincinnati and any other named defendants shall have settled all lawsuits and/or arbitrations resulting from alleged acts of police violence or infringement of civil rights involving the following plaintiffs:

- The family of Roger Owensby Jr.;
- The family of Michael Carpenter;
- The family of Timothy Thomas;
- Christine Jones, Mary Ann Meredith, and other victims who accuse Cincinnati or Ohio State Police of wrongly shooting them with beanbags either during the April 2001 unrest or the 'drive-by' beanbag shootings that took place on April 14, 2001;

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- Parties named to receive settlements, in the recently concluded “Collaborative Agreement,” filed in United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division, on the Racial Profiling lawsuit (Case No. C-1-99-317). (See section VII, p. 28-29.)

The second precondition is that the attorney fees for the plaintiffs in the Racial Profiling lawsuit (Case No. C-1-99-317), referred to above, shall have been paid in full.

The third precondition is that an agreement shall be in place, suitable to all parties named below in Section I, for distributing the costs and fees of mediators or attorneys, and other anticipated or unanticipated costs incurred by the Committees and Working Groups described in Sections I-IV, including, but not limited to, standard office needs such as photocopying, office supplies, secretarial support, travel of outside mediators or consultants (as agreed upon), and meeting space.

The last precondition is that while the negotiations are continuing and in any remaining lawsuits involving any representatives or participants in the organizations named in Sections I-III below, there shall be joint motions for stays or continuances in effect where any lawsuits have allegedly resulted from boycott- or sanctions-related activities.

If the above preconditions are met, then the following Committees and Working Groups shall be formed:

I. Negotiations Steering Committee:

Voting Members: *

The Mayor of Cincinnati
The City Manager of Cincinnati
Two Hamilton County Commissioners
Two Cincinnati City Council Members (as appointed by the full Cincinnati City Council)
Two representatives chosen by the Cincinnati Business Committee

Two representatives chosen by the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati
Two representatives chosen by the Cincinnati Black United Front
Two representatives chosen by the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Justice
Two representatives chosen by Stonewall Cincinnati

* If health or other imminent concerns prevent the continued participation of any of the above named parties or representatives, the organization or governmental body to be represented will have the right to appoint a permanent substitute. No party may object to a representative chosen by another party.

Non-Voting Consultants:

Each organization, private and governmental, may appoint one attorney or one other individual to be a non-voting consultant.

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The above participants will constitute a Steering Committee for the negotiations, which, along with a mediator approved by all parties, will coordinate the multi-lateral talks of the working groups, and set dates and venues for the working groups. The Steering Committee will hear reports of the working groups, confirm their decisions, and set priorities for the allocation of resources (all subject to later approval by the appropriate governmental bodies, if required, as in the case of new legislation). The Steering Committee will resolve any disputes or deadlocks among the working groups. The Steering Committee will also discuss broader issues such as the overall vision of the future of race relations in Cincinnati, while integrating the work of the individual working groups.

II. Working Groups:

The four working groups will deal with different areas of common concern, and are charged with reviewing the boycott demands and concerns of all aforementioned organizations, private and governmental, as they relate to each area. They will be charged with making concrete proposals for action, spending, and legislation. They will be working within a specified time frame (See Section III). They will build on the work of past blue-ribbon panels – they will not hold any new public hearings before beginning their work.

The four working groups will be:

Economic Apartheid
Civilian Control of the Cincinnati Police
Civil and Human Rights
Reform of Government and Elections

Each working group shall have voting representatives appointed by the organizations represented in the Steering Committee, as follows below. Note that the voting representatives appointed by these organizations could be persons knowledgeable on the issues, and not necessarily active participants in the organizations themselves. Each party may replace their representative(s) at any time without stating a reason. No party may object to a representative chosen by another party.

Non-Voting Consultants:

Each working group has the right to also appoint non-voting consultants, appointed by a simple majority vote of the voting members, to be community experts and participants on specific working issues. Non-voting consultants may speak at meetings but have no vote.

The mediator of the Steering Committee will appoint a mediator to each working group. No representative on one working group can also be a voting representative on another working group. However, a member of the Steering Committee can be a voting representative or a non-voting consultant on (at most) one working group.

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Voting Representatives:

Economic Apartheid:

- 2 representatives appointed by Hamilton County Commissioners
- 4 representatives appointed by the City of Cincinnati Government
- 2 representatives appointed by the Cincinnati Business Committee

- 3 representatives appointed by the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati
- 2 representatives appointed by the Cincinnati Black United Front
- 2 representatives appointed by the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Justice
- 1 representative appointed by Stonewall Cincinnati

Civilian Control of the Cincinnati Police:

- 2 representatives appointed by Hamilton County Commissioners
- 4 representatives appointed by the City of Cincinnati Government
- 2 representatives appointed by the Cincinnati Business Committee

- 2 representatives appointed by the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati
- 3 representatives appointed by the Cincinnati Black United Front
- 2 representatives appointed by the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Justice
- 1 representative appointed by Stonewall Cincinnati

Civil and Human Rights:

- 2 representatives appointed by Hamilton County Commissioners
- 4 representatives appointed by the City of Cincinnati Government
- 2 representatives appointed by the Cincinnati Business Committee

- 2 representatives appointed by the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati
- 2 representatives appointed by the Cincinnati Black United Front
- 1 representative appointed by the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Justice
- 3 representatives appointed by Stonewall Cincinnati

Reform of Government and Elections:

- 1 representative appointed by Hamilton County Commissioners
- 2 representatives appointed approved by the City of Cincinnati Government
- 1 representative appointed approved by the Cincinnati Business Committee

- 1 representative appointed by the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati
- 1 representative appointed by the Cincinnati Black United Front
- 1 representative appointed by the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Justice
- 1 representative appointed by Stonewall Cincinnati

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Total Voting Representatives from all Organizations (Working Groups and Steering Committee):

18 representatives appointed by the City of Cincinnati Government
9 representatives appointed by Hamilton County Commissioners
9 representatives appointed by the Cincinnati Business Committee

10 representatives appointed by the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati
10 representatives appointed by the Cincinnati Black United Front
8 representatives appointed by the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Justice
8 representatives appointed by Stonewall Cincinnati

III. Meetings:

All meetings of the Working Groups and the Steering Committee shall be open to the public for observation. Whether the public will be allowed to speak at Working Group or Steering Committee meetings, either in a public comment period or a question and answer session, will be up to the Steering Committee and each Working Group. All meeting records and documents, if any, shall be available to the public.

Day 1:

Opening Presentations – Members of the Steering Committee
Questions and Answers from the Public and Press

Week 1:

Set the membership of the Working Groups

Weeks 2-12

Working Groups meet twice a week
Steering Committee meets every other week

Weeks 13-14

Steering Committee approves proposals of working groups, including forwarding any requests for legislation and spending to the appropriate governmental bodies.

IV. Public Comment:

While this process will not include new public hearings, the public is encouraged to participate by sending written comments to the Steering Committee or the Working Groups via a designated webpage, email, fax, or mail. These comments will be taken into consideration by the Steering Committee and Working Groups but will not delay the process.