

# State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 27, 2015**

## **MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS CALLS FOR END TO VIOLENCE In Wake of Unrest, Commission Encourages Peace & Constructive Dialogue**

**Baltimore, MD** – In the wake of violent civil unrest carried out by a limited number of individuals which started in the Mondawmin Mall area and spread to other locations throughout Baltimore, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) is calling for an immediate stop to this behavior so community members and leaders can be brought together to address tensions between city residents and the law enforcement community.

“Senseless acts of violence do not benefit anyone as we work to restore faith in our law enforcement officials who are sworn to serve and protect our city with honor, dignity, and integrity,” states MCCR Executive Director Alvin Gillard. Furthermore, MCCR Chairperson Shawn M. Wright, Esq., says “What we need now more than ever is for everyone to be committed to positive, constructive dialog as an agent for progressive change. Only by working together can we ensure that the issues underlining the unrest in Baltimore are addressed.”

Created in 1927, MCCR enforces Maryland’s anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts. Citing its nearly 90 year statutory obligation to study issues disparately affecting the African American community, MCCR is working with communities and leaders in Baltimore and throughout Maryland to identify opportunities where state and county laws, regulations, and practices can be amended to address these very issues boiling over within Maryland. MCCR recently had discussions with the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Department of Justice. In the coming weeks, MCCR is hosting a roundtable between community leaders and stakeholders on police-community relations.

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