



Media Contact:

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Media Statement: Baltimore Consent Decree

(Baltimore, MD) - Baltimore Community Mediation Center is honored to be part of the community engagement work provided by the monitoring team for Baltimore's Consent Decree. We believe that successfully engaging historically underserved and unheard communities will be a critical factor in the overall success of the consent decree initiatives.

Based on the inclusive, neutral and community-based style of mediation, large-group facilitation and dialogue circles that Baltimore Community Mediation Center has practiced over its 22-year history, candidates for the monitoring team reached out for partnership at the end of the summer. Now that the monitoring team is finalized, we will engage with both the community and monitoring team using the non-judgmental, confidential and transparent methods, rooted in inclusive and empowering values, that we use every day to help Baltimore residents have difficult conversations.

Baltimore Community Mediation Center will work with the community to first understand what engagement looks like for the community and how best to provide that feedback to the monitoring team.

Shantay Guy, Baltimore Community Mediation Center's Executive Director, will develop a team of volunteers drawn from various segments of Baltimore's population to ensure appropriate and authentic community engagement. Community engagement is one portion of the consent decree mandate, and Baltimore Community Mediation Center is proud to focus on that engagement and provide a channel for meaningful feedback as the monitoring team works on policy and implementation.

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Coming up: Run for ReEntry: October 7-8, Lorig Charkoudian will run from Hagerstown to Baltimore to highlight the challenges facing returning citizens and their families. The run will end at the Baltimore Community Mediation Center by 3 pm at 3333 Greenmount Avenue, where returning citizens and local elected officials will hold a press conference. More information at <http://reentrymediation.wixsite.com/run4reentry>.

Mediation Partnerships Benefit Baltimore. Baltimore Community Mediation Center is the go-to organization when people need to have difficult conversations with one another. We provide free mediation services and dispute resolution skills training to Baltimore City residents. Sixty-four volunteer mediators mediated 618 sessions in FY2016, working with partners ranging from the Baltimore City State's Attorney office to Baltimore City Schools to community groups. All mediators have at least 55 hours of experiential training, hands-on experience, and continuous work to improve their skills. Community Mediation is a member of Community Mediation Maryland (CMM), a coalition of 15 community mediation centers throughout the state. Learn more at www.communitymediation.org.