

The Greater Cincinnati COMMITMENT



for organizations

CINCINNATUS ASSOCIATION

About Cincinnatus

The **Cincinnatus Association** was created in 1920 to address the issue of reforming corrupt city government. For eight decades its 100 active members have sought to initiate, recognize, participate in, and promote projects aimed at improving the quality of life in Greater Cincinnati. This has been accomplished through the study of critical issues confronting the region by engaging community leaders and by shaping public policy. Members of Cincinnatus organize themselves into panels that have historically addressed school issues, government issues, arts and culture concerns, and relations between the races.

Thus in September 2002, the Cincinnatus Association formed the Inter-Group Relations Action Team with a view to respond in some way to the April 2001 riots and their aftermath. Among other steps, this led to the Cincinnatus Association's becoming an official Friend of the Collaborative Agreement in 2005. In this capacity, several members have volunteered in activities related to implementation of the Agreement.

The Community Inclusion Panel

In 2006 the Inter-Group Relations Action Team was renamed the **Community Inclusion Panel**. In the summer of 2007 that group developed the following vision and mission statement:

Vision: *The work of the Community Inclusion Panel has established the Cincinnatus Association as one of the most effective and highly respected civic organizations engaged in eliminating race-based inequities within the Cincinnati metropolitan area.*

Mission: *The mission of Cincinnatus' Community Inclusion Panel is to significantly contribute to the region's progress toward equity of opportunity for all citizens irrespective of race to the extent that this becomes a nationally recognized hallmark of the region.*

The attainment of equity of opportunity will become a marker upon which the region will be nationally recognized.

For additional information about the Cincinnatus Association, its history, and its panels go to:
www.cincinnatusassoc.org

Cincinnatus Association
P.O. Box 19191
Cincinnati, OH 45219

Cincinnatus Association's Action

By its approval of the Greater Cincinnati Commitment on September 14, 2004, the Cincinnatus Association sought to begin the process of creating a movement to eradicate institutional racism in the Greater Cincinnati region. On November 9, 2004 the members approved a resolution to join 13 other organizations and become "Friends of the Collaborative," a volunteer group of organizations committed to supporting the Cincinnati Collaborative Agreement on Police Community Relations of 2002. This action is a way to implement the words of the Commitment. In the same spirit, the Community Inclusion Panel is now developing a foundation to address issues of institutionalized racism in neighborhood integration and justice administration.

The Commitment

The Cincinnatus Association is now reaching out to individuals and organizations to adopt "The Greater Cincinnati Commitment." The language of the Commitment was chosen to reflect the signer's affirmation or reaffirmation not only to disavow all forms of racism and prejudice on a personal level, but also to join with others in taking steps aimed at dismantling the residue of past racism, prejudice and stereotypes of all forms that persist in the Cincinnati region to this day. It is the hope of the Community Inclusion Panel that all Cincinnati justice-minded organizations will endorse the Commitment as a matter of principle and encourage their members to individually sign it as well.

The Challenge

We respectfully request your consideration and personal endorsement of this commitment. Please sign and mail the attached form today. Every pledge signed and returned will be recorded as a permanent testament to racial harmony in our community. Please sign it and live it.

The Importance of Your Commitment

"This is an individual challenge. It is a challenge we all must accept, and we must in that process strive always to alter within our own selves, within our own families and our own neighborhoods, the precepts, hidden though they may be, but present as they are, of white superiority, black inferiority, and white entitlement."

Judge Nathaniel Jones (Retired)
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth District

"A new consciousness of institutionalized white power and privilege is the fulcrum on which all the rest of what we might do to combat racism turns."

Dean James Diamond
Christ Church Cathedral

"I've been doing labor employment law for thirty plus years and discrimination exists, institutional racism exists, prejudices exist, and biases exist. It doesn't matter whether you are black or white."

Michael Hawkins
Partner, Dinsmore and Shohl

"The commitment is necessary in our community because all of the usual processes have led nowhere. Our region will never live up to its potential until we face the issue of race relations, white privilege and economic inclusion in a candid manner."

Wayne Hicks
President and CEO, Cincinnati Business Incubator

"This personal agreement reminds each of us of our role in fighting bias, bigotry and racism. It's our chance to invest in our community and build a more inclusive and just Greater Cincinnati."

Carla Messer
Vice President, Client Solutions - Postmark Company

"The Greater Cincinnati Commitment takes the racial reconciliation efforts of the Cincinnatus Association to a new level - addressing systemic racism inherited from the past. The goal is to move Greater Cincinnati toward becoming a community that works for all."

Brandon Wiers
Civic Volunteer

Sign the Pledge!

We believe the full greatness of our city, our region and our nation will only be achieved when every individual has a full and unrestricted opportunity to learn, grow and contribute to the community with all the potential of their innate personal gifts.

We believe that in this new millennium we can and we must move forward to remove the vestiges of racism and other forms of discrimination from our city, our country and our individual lives.

In this spirit, we make this commitment:

* **We will** use our individual and our collective strength - intellectually, politically, economically, spiritually, and morally - to eliminate discriminatory behaviors, policies and practices from our community.

* **We will** openly and intentionally seek to open doors that will ensure everyone the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

* **We will** embrace diversity and seek equity for all members of the human family.

Organization

Signature

Printed Name

Title

E-mail Address (optional)

Date of Approval

Mailing Address (optional)

Please fill in the blanks above and mail to:

Cincinnatus Association
P.O. Box 19191
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Questions and/or comments may be directed to:
Stephanie Stoller - steph@covap.com or (513) 793-1855

The Greater Cincinnati Commitment

FOR ORGANIZATIONS

The Greater Cincinnati Commitment reflects the signer's affirmation or reaffirmation to join with others in taking steps to remove racism, prejudice and stereotypes of all forms from our own lives, as well as the lives of others, and to treat all people with respect.

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or by phone to Stephanie Stoller @ 793-1855