



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



Home and Away: DHS and the Threats to America

On April 18, 2017, Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly delivered remarks entitled, “Home & Away: Threats to America and the DHS Response,” at the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security at George Washington University. Secretary Kelly discussed the threats our country faces from transnational criminal organizations, terrorism, and risks in cyberspace before highlighting the steps DHS is taking to keep the American people safe and secure.

Following his remarks, Secretary Kelly participated in a moderated discussion with Director of the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security Frank J. Cilluffo.

Video and prepared text are available [here](#).

CRCL Officer Participates in U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s Eclipse Week

CRCL’s Acting Officer Veronica Venture participated in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s 42nd Annual Eclipse Week. Eclipse is the Academy’s premier opportunity for service-wide fellowship and learning. Each year, the week’s events unite alumni and cadets for personal and professional development in support of: retaining top talent, recruiting future cadets, and inspiring a climate of inclusion.

Acting Officer Venture participated in a networking event with Rear Admiral Joseph Vojvodich, and a host of cadets and alumni. An avid mentor, she shared her five principles of mentoring and her career experiences in public service.

Eclipse Week is a celebratory tradition established in the 1970s by the Genesis Club to mentor and inspire cadets in preparation for lasting careers as officers in the Coast Guard.

The Genesis Club was formed as a social outlet for the few African American cadets within the Corps of Cadets. Over time, Genesis has evolved into one of the largest and most active clubs on the Academy’s campus, and has become instrumental in professional development and retention.



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CRCL Conducts Strong Cities Network Community Engagement Exchange in France

CRCL recently traveled to Marseille, France to participate in the second phase of the Strong Cities Network Community Engagement Exchange between the cities of Tampa/Orlando, Florida, and Marseille, France.

This exchange program, coordinated with the U.S. Department of State, is a multiagency, bilateral program designed to facilitate the exchange of best practices in community engagement at local, regional, and national levels. The program focuses on the roles of various sectors in society including law enforcement, human rights, philanthropy, education, civic participation, and substantive community engagement as part of the multidisciplinary approach to safeguarding our free and democratic societies.



Over the past five years, CRCL has successfully implemented this program with proven operational success in the United States, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, and France. The program has been successful due to the participation of key stakeholders who have incorporated community engagement best practices in their day-to-day responsibilities in their various fields of work. These individuals have served as subject matter experts in the Strong Cities Network Community Engagement Exchange Program representing the following cities: Tampa, Orlando, Houston, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, and Columbus.

CRCL Leads Community Engagement Roundtable Meetings in Arizona

CRCL's Acting Officer Veronica Venture recently traveled to Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona to participate in CRCL-led quarterly community engagement roundtables with community partners.

CRCL conducts quarterly roundtables in over 16 cities across the country to meet with diverse American communities who feel their civil rights may be affected by DHS activities. CRCL responds to community concerns and provides information about DHS programs, activities, and issues.

In Phoenix, CRCL met with community groups and discussed a number of concerns including the rise in hate crimes and how to ensure safety in houses of worship and schools, and challenges that refugee communities are currently facing. In Tucson, roundtable participants discussed immigration-related issues involving immigration enforcement, family separation at the border, and questions concerning Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).



CRCL on the Road, April 2017

April 1-7 – Marseille, France

CRCL participated in the second phase of the Strong Cities Network Exchange between Tampa, Florida and Marseille, France.

April 4-6 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL participated in a series of engagement meetings with local community stakeholders.

CRCL on the Road Ahead, May 2017

Denver, Colorado: Quarterly roundtable, May 1-3

Columbus, Ohio: Quarterly roundtable, May 2-4

Seattle, Washington: Quarterly roundtable, May 4

Tampa, Florida: Quarterly roundtable, May 10

Portland, Oregon: Quarterly roundtable, May 16-19

Boston, Massachusetts: Quarterly roundtable, May 29-30

For more information on engagement events, email: communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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