

# *Race Matters for Juvenile Justice*



Race Matters for Juvenile Justice Hires Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlotte, NC -- February 9, 2017

Consultant, trainer and facilitator Derrik Anderson joins Race Matters for Juvenile Justice (RMJJ) as Director. The organization's first paid staff position, funded jointly by the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, provides the kind of focused and dedicated leadership necessary to expand upon its many significant accomplishments.

Since 2010, RMJJ has trained over 2,000 community members in developing a racial analysis by hosting Dismantling Racism workshops; delivered nearly 100 presentations locally, regionally, and nationally; partnered with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, and area police departments to decrease arrests for non-violent school-based offenses; and challenged criminal justice officials to examine the role of implicit bias in decision-making.

"I am committed and passionate about this work," says Anderson. "I really want to see systemic change in the way people of color are being impacted by our institutions."

Anderson brings a broad and diverse background of practice experience to the director position. He obtained a Bachelors in Social Work from South Carolina State University and Masters degrees in Social Service Administration (MSSA) and Management of Nonprofit Organization (MNO) from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. Anderson also serves on the board of the North Carolina Juvenile Service Association (NCJSA).

"The work of dismantling systemic racism and building equitable and accountable systems are as important today as any other time in our nation's history," says Elissa Chinn-Gary, RMJJ co-chair. "I am humbled and encouraged that both City and County leaders are investing in the Court's effort to reduce the disproportionality and disparate outcomes that children of color and their families face in the juvenile justice system."

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“Adding a Director, especially someone with Mr. Anderson’s expertise and commitment, will enable RMJJ to greatly expand our work to reduce disparities,” says RMJJ co-chair, Lou Trosch. “We could not be more excited.”

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Contact:

Melba Newsome

Assistant Clerk / Communications Specialist

Phone: (704) 686-0537

[Melba.Y.Newsome@nccourts.org](mailto:Melba.Y.Newsome@nccourts.org)