

the community. I would further encourage the DP to put out a clarion call for a white males against racism support group and not try to recreate the wheel by feeling that you have to do it alone. Call on the Women's Center or other groups that have a history of not just bitching, moaning, complaining and blaming; but who have a history of pro-activism and who fight for meaningful social change for all Americans.

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Philadelphia Tribune

"Coalition charges state police, LCB with racism"

Kendall Wilson

The newly formed Coalition Against Racism, convened by complainants who work on the Pennsylvania State Police force and with the Liquor Control Board (LCB), announced Thursday that a number of charges have been filed against the State Police, alleging racial and sexual discrimination.

The charges include allegations of racial harassment on behalf of several state employees.

These charges and one of alleged ethnic discrimination have also been filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

The announcement was made in the Center City law offices of longtime civil rights activist Dr. **Walter Palmer**, founder of the **Palmer** Foundation -- a research and training institute on social justice -- who serves as an adviser and consultant to the group. The Coalition was joined by attorneys for the plaintiffs, as well as representatives of several civil rights organizations, community advocates, political representatives, and an observer from EEOC.

Palmer said that one attorney, Brian Puricelli, is representing eight of the complainants, who work in Philadelphia, Allentown, Harrisburg, and Scranton. Puricelli said six of the right plaintiffs are women, including one Hispanic and one white woman. The other two plaintiffs are one Black and one Hispanic trooper.

Puricelli identified three of the plaintiffs, now part of public record, after having filed with EEOC's Eastern District, as Crystal Rogers, an African-American female trooper; Kathy Kidd, a white female in Allentown, and Raymond Rivera, an Hispanic trooper in Scranton.

"We have learned of other incidents across the state," he said describing on in Pittsburgh. "The State Police's Internal Affairs people are advised of these problems, but just refuse to discipline the

offenders. Instead, it seems they are allowing the State Police and LCB to use administrative regulations to drive out Blacks and women."

Puricelli said that while complaints from minorities and women were "swept under the rug," trumped-up complaints against Blacks, Hispanics, and women went on the troopers' records.

"However, when a complaint was made against a white trooper, the thing that went on his record was a yellow sticker that could be pulled off anytime they got ready," he charged. Puricelli said the refusal of the State Police to document the complaints from one Hispanic officer led to the State Human Relations Commission's refusal to even accept the officer's complaint.

"And they are misusing the disciplinary process," he contends. "No real action has been taken about the officers wearing aprons and displaying their (private parts) to the female officer," he said. "Nor the LCB officer who had a handgun pointed at her. We also have complaints that went to Internal Affairs about the minority officer who was coerced to give false statements against a complainant."

Palmer said despite the increase of Blacks, other minorities, and women on the State Police force, racism still thrives, although "in more sophisticated ways."

"Racism has not subsided," he said. "You can see it still exists. People have been led to believe it doesn't happen. It is now more systemic, organic, and subliminal."

Palmer said the coalition is highlighting the State Police cases to encourage other civil rights groups and political leaders to put pressure on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to come to grips with the problem and for victims of racism and harassment to come forward without fear of retaliation or loss of jobs.

The key co-convenors of the Coalition include Marlene Harris, Cynthia Wright, Sy DuBose, Calvin Speight and Linda Richardson, of Black United Fund, where the Coalition meets monthly.

Complainants are invited to call the Coalition at (215) 569-1938.