

ABSTRACT

Developing A Community Embracing Its Diversity: “ Establishing a Culture of Harmony in the Presence of Dissonance “

This presentation exhibits a process for creating sustainable harmony in communities populated by a variety of cultural, social, ethnic and racial subsets. As population concentrations change, new cultural influences enter neighborhoods and often affect the nature and intrinsic balance of those neighborhoods. When differences enter the picture, how does a community find the harmony it needs?

The presentation discusses the nature of community, factors resulting in a lack of harmony, and restorative principles which help merge diverse populations into a consensus-building community. The goal is to achieve a greater volume and clarity for all voices of the community, such that a common ground for community planning and outcomes is achieved, along with an agreed code of behavior and quality of life.

Finally, it presents a restorative justice method for communities to use in “ Establishing a Culture of Harmony in the Presence of Dissonance“ and, redirecting “neighbors not being neighborly,” through a Community Peacemaking process.

Attendees of this presentation will be able to acquire, refresh or alter their skills-set in community building and activism. Through this presentation they will be able to assess their views in sensing the natural divides of a community. Attendees will be given new ways to rethink how to address those divides and their needs in order to create a culture of harmony and inclusive forward-looking policies.

This presentation includes actual municipal initiatives where this model has been implemented as public-policy. It also includes graphics which assist in its explanation.

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