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May 9, 2013

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## **Michigan Department of Civil Rights to Celebrate 50th Anniversary with Event in Holland**

### ***Community Looks Ahead to Civil Rights Challenges of the Next Decade***

**Holland**—The Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) and the Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) will host a panel discussion and community dialogue on civil rights issues facing West Michigan on Thursday, May 16, at Holland City Hall, 270 South River Avenue.

The event begins with a reception at 5:30 pm followed by a panel discussion and community dialogue beginning at 6:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

A panel of area leaders will kick off a community dialogue exploring the local civil rights issues MDCR should prioritize over the next ten years. Panelists include:

- **Brian Davis**, Superintendent, Holland Public Schools
- **Alfredo Gonzales**, Associate Provost and Dean for International and Multicultural Education, Hope College
- **Gail Harrison**, Executive Director, Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance
- **Chief Matt Messer**, Director, Holland Public Safety Services Department

The Holland event is an early stop on MDCR's year-long tour of 50 Michigan cities in commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the department's creation. MDCR 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events around the state will showcase MDCR services and provide an opportunity for department staff to meet with community leaders and citizens on a wide range of topics.

Co-sponsors with MDCR for the Holland event include the International Relations Commission (IRC), Hope College, Holland Human Relations Commission (HRC), Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, the City of Holland, and the West Coast Chamber of Commerce.

Find the complete 50-city anniversary tour schedule on the MDCR website, [www.michigan.gov/mdcr](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr).

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