



PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICA'S PEACEMAKING AGENCY ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service announces the appointment of Grande Lum as its Director.

Mr. Lum's experience over the last twenty years includes mediation, facilitation, training and leading dispute resolution organizations. During this time he has worked with a wide range of individuals, groups and organizations, including educators, community leaders, government officials, attorneys, students, law enforcement, business executives, diplomats and scientists. He also has served as a Director of the University of California Hastings Law School's Center for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution and Director of the Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Program at the Small Business Administration. Mr. Lum currently serves on the Board of Overseers of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, a U.S. Department of Commerce initiative intended to improve the competitiveness and performance of U.S. organizations.

"Helping parties through difficult conflicts is what I have devoted my career to and what I am passionate about," said Lum. "In communities throughout the country there are going to be issues that cause tension, and I feel honored and privileged to be leading an agency created explicitly to resolve such conflicts."

The Community Relations Service (CRS) is a component of the U. S. Department of Justice that works with local government officials, community leaders, and law enforcement to reduce tensions arising from issues of race, color, and national origin. CRS also works with local communities in support of their efforts to prevent and respond to violent hate crimes committed on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability.

CRS has 15 offices throughout the country, and provides its services free of charge to the parties involved. The agency does not impose solutions, investigate, prosecute, or assign blame or fault. CRS provides impartial conciliation and mediation services intended to prevent violence and civil disorder, reduce tensions, help parties in conflict identify solutions and build local capacity to resolve future conflicts.

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