



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Commission on Human Relations

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh (PA) – ON September 1, 2019, the Taylor Allderdice boys' soccer team faced the Connellsville soccer team in a tournament game. During this game, several Allderdice players felt personally attacked with racial slurs and inappropriate touching. This incident has radiated through and beyond the Pittsburgh community as an example of the work still needed around bias and discrimination. Currently, group of concerned parents of Allderdice players are seeking support and a resolution through the governing Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic League (WPIAL) and the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA).

The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PghCHR, the Commission) supports the players of the Taylor Allderdice soccer team, their parents, and their peers without reservation. Additionally, PghCHR condemns any action taken against Pittsburgh Public School students and all Pittsburghers that may constitute unfair treatment, discrimination, or hate crimes.

PghCHR is grateful for the continued support of the offended players that Pittsburgh Public Schools has offered, and the work of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, which has jurisdiction in this matter. In addition to this statement of support, PghCHR would like to join others in offering our services to the players and community during this difficult time. The Commission will continue to take complaints of discrimination within the city borders, provide community outreach and education, and facilitate relief of community tension at the citizens' first call.

The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations would also like to offer its support to all organizations seeking to create a fair and transparent process to address discrimination. Without a clear process to address discrimination, individual rights weaken, organizations lose credibility, and communities experience long-standing trauma. Therefore, the Commission recommends that every organization, particularly those charged with the welfare of our children, create a transparent process of complaints and appeals that addresses discrimination including hate-based speech and violence.

The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations investigates instances of discrimination in the City of Pittsburgh and seeks resolutions for anyone who has experienced harm because of discrimination. We proactively work with communities, and public and private organizations, to educate people about equal rights and opportunities. If you, or anyone you know, has experienced differential treatment based on your status in a protected class, contact the Commission at 412-255-2600.