



Dear Friends:

**“Whenever we celebrate the diversity in this community, whenever we talk about the diversity in this community as an asset and view it as an asset, well, it makes it more so,” said Mayor Bill White, as he proclaimed June 2, 2009 “Community of Respect” Day in Houston at a Houston City Council meeting attended by more than 100 participants in this city-wide anti-bias and diversity program designed to foster understanding and respect.**

**Are you committed to fostering respect and understanding?**

**Do you want to join with other Houston-area businesses, houses of worship and organizations committed to celebrating diversity?**

**Do you appreciate new opportunities and collaborations?**

**If so, be a Community of Respect™ Partner in 2010!**

Since the Community of Respect™ Initiative began in 2006, over 150 Houston area businesses, houses of worship and organizations have worked to make their communities a Community of Respect™. This Initiative was inspired by the Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) successful No Place for Hate® Initiative currently in over 200 schools in the Southwest Region. The ADL is a non-profit human relations and civil rights organization dedicated to combating prejudice and discrimination and securing justice and fair treatment for all. Both ADL’s school-based No Place for Hate® and community-based Community of Respect™ Initiatives help participants demonstrate their appreciation of diversity and then allow them to be applauded and recognized for their efforts.

Follow these steps to become a Community of Respect™ Partner:

1. **Submit** the Intent Form.
2. **Create** a committee and/or appoint a person(s) to oversee the implementation of the Initiative.
3. **Sign** and submit the Resolution of Respect or create a resolution of your own.
4. **Implement** three anti-bias and diversity activities. Each activity must provide an opportunity to LEARN about, DISCUSS and ACT upon the issues highlighted by the activity.
5. **Complete** the Activity Fulfillment Form(s).

You will find the necessary forms in the enclosed Community of Respect™ Tool Kit.

Partners receive a beautiful glass award or a customized banner and city-wide recognition, when possible. An **EXCEPTIONAL Community of Respect™ Partnership Recognition** is presented at the end of the year to a house of worship, business and organization that goes the **EXTRA MILE FOR RESPECT**.

In closing, if you have any questions you may contact the ADL office by phone at 713-627-3490 and state that you would like information on the Community of Respect™ Initiative. Thank you for your time and consideration.