

# International Chamber of Justice

## Free-Market Social Programs

Our non-profit vision is to serve humankind and act as a market-device to foster economic growth and job opportunities in every place our organization grows as we seek to empower the ordinary people in a way that educates them for their own pragmatic and practical purposes.

We will help ordinary people see that they and their family members are extraordinary and hold or are ready to learn job skills important to the successful unfolding of a sustainable global and local economy.

## Living in Apartheid St. Augustine

United States Attorney General Eric Holder spoke recently of our National progress in racial relations in working and shopping together but that after work, we go back to our segregated homes and family groups and I believe he has noted something we can put to work as a partial solution to bridging the racial divide that costs our society and economy.

I've never seen a segregated Synagogue or Mosque, but many Christians in America worship God in mostly separate (but equal) Houses of Worship. America and South Africa are the only countries of the world where I know this to be the case.

In America's first Free-Black community, a "Black Catholic Parish" is a Historical Designation, a Monument on Center Street, now Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

Most of the area churches are all 'black' or all 'white.' There are Christian congregations here where people of both races regularly worship together, but I fear these are a small percentage of the church-going public.

I don't believe this peculiar American habit is a matter for blame or picking a fight, but a way to turn a problem into an opportunity.

## Food-sharing and relation-building twice a week-

Imagine we do this first in our community, then the State, then all the States, then all the globe-pot-luck suppers twice a week...think about the massive movement this could create alone without any other Chamber of Justice program.

The Chamber of Justice proposes to set-up & coordinate cross-culture Pot-Luck Suppers with as many as 15 in a single night, covering all of St. Augustine's neighborhoods.

We will do Thursdays, and we want the local churches to host back and forth, visiting each others Church property and matching us on Wednesday's, a regular night of worship for most of the Churches.

We are also inviting those *who can not* bring a covered dish or even a can of some vegetable or other *to come and eat with us anyway* and be part of our community.

We will have people in need, families with kids, or those who are homeless show-up and we hope all of our hosts and churches will welcome any who come to be a part of

our loved ones we care enough about to share our food, conversation and ideas of unity.

## The theory behind dining together

Enduring relationships are almost always built around shared functions performed over time amongst members of a group.

As my Grandmother, sisters and Mother and I washed dishes, prepared food, cleaned floors, ironed clothes and shared the many details of life together, we built a deep and abiding relationship that has endured all of our lives.

Preparing three meals a day for five children & two adults & the clean-up afterwards was a process & function shared in varying degrees of responsibility by all the family members, all of whom participated in some way.

Now we nearly all live apart in different States, but the shared functions that built our relationship has given way to a nostalgic or romanticized remembrance of our experiences together while facing our daily challenges.

## A New Weekly Habit

For each neighborhood, we propose a weekly habit of sharing a function of pot-luck food-sharing and clean-up, with different hosts each week, at least one in every neighborhood, all on one night; a revolving movement of people within and between neighborhoods.

We'll start with one in each neighborhood & add a second house & host as demand grows.

**Envision 15 of 30 churches hosting these**

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*dinners each week on Wednesday, hump-day, where the hungry and desperate can bring their kids and eat with no demand for cash, to stretch the household budget.*

*On Thursday, a list of 15 of 30 Chamber of Justice members will open their homes and host a pot-luck neighborhood dinner each week with discussions afterwards on our new organization and services that might address fundamental issues or programs that address the common problems we are all facing.*

## **Feeding the hungry- finding new social opportunities**

We propose two nights out of seven, the new organization and the established churches of St. Augustine and St. Johns County will bring neighbors together to share food and clean-up and meet neighbors many of whom are facing similar challenges during these trying times.

A shared load is lighter and carried with good cheer with the companionship and compassion of those with which we walk and work. It is this spirit of unity and comity that is the heart of the Chamber of Justice.

Many of our neighbors here in St. Augustine and St. Johns County share these values and it is to you we call out to join in this virtual global human community with a local, brick and mortar presence under development.

## **Can't we let sleeping dogs lie?**

I know there are many people who've become somewhat comfortable with the current power

arrangements and don't care to open-up this can of worms of race relations.

Outside of white supremacist and remnants of the KKK there are still those who don't believe talking about these things will help and is likely inflame the temper of people who have finally calmed down and left elite white-people alone, unchallenged.

Many don't see the racist nature of SAPD patrols and drug-war activity that targets "black youths," or the environmental racism where e-coli outbreaks and leaks in and around Lincolnville are not reported, even for safety sake, no boil water advisory, nothing to warn people of color and those white people who choose to live among them.

While a wealthy few citizens are represented by our part-time City Commissioners whose only job is to maintain the hidden power of a few, those who can afford an expensive hobby like being a City Commissioner or Mayor can never represent those who actually work for a living.

## **Non-Representative Candidates**

If all the candidates of both party represents commerce and are dismissive of residents who tend to give very little to candidates running for office, and only those wealthy enough or supported by a spouse can afford to work for the low pay offered for serving the people as a city commissioner or Mayor, then we will never be able to elect a truly representative government, because all the candidates represent some powerful lobby.

some hidden, personal agenda or commerce in general to the exclusion and detriment of "we the people."

## **Non-representative Coercion**

"We the People" agree to the coercive powers of government under the assumption that the government will represent and protect people, their Liberty, welfare and Rights under law.

When wealthy elites use the police power of their office to attack and undermine the well-established Rights of the people in favor of maintaining their position of power & influence over the people's government and then conceal records to avoid accountability, a *reasonable person must ask* whether St. Augustine has fallen to a secret insurrection, to a treasonous conspiracy maintained by a handful of criminals pretending to be a legitimate government administration?

## **The importance of public dialogue**

If we are mutually creating our experience all of us should have a say. Yet some secretly use government to freeze out large numbers of people from participating in the public dialogue on the kind of city experience we wish to have.

The wealthy-white elites, the minority from yesteryear continues to dominate the other minorities, using the power of the majority on behalf of the elites of race & commerce alone.