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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY EDUCATION FORUM TO BE HELD IN HOMER, LA ON TUESDAY, MAY 26

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service Southwest Regional Director Carmelita Pope Freeman, announce a Community Education Forum to be held in Homer, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Homer City Hall, 400 East Main Street, Homer, LA.

The United States Attorney's Offices are the nation's principal litigators under the direction of the United States Attorney General. United States Attorneys have three statutory responsibilities: prosecution of criminal cases brought by the federal government, prosecution and defense of civil cases in which the United States is a party, and the collection of debts owed the federal government which are administratively uncollectible.

The Community Relations Service (CRS) is the Department of Justice's "peacemaker" for community conflicts and tensions arising from differences of race, color and national origin. CRS was created by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is the only federal agency dedicated to assisting State and local units of government, private and public organizations, and community groups with preventing and resolving

racial and ethnic tensions, incidents and civil disorders, and in restoring racial stability and harmony to communities.

The purpose of the Community Education Forum is to educate parties about “investigation and prosecution” processes related to administration of justice matters and help minimize frustration concerning allegations related to disparate treatment with such issues throughout the community. Participants will be informed and receive a better understanding about civil rights issues, how the Department conducts investigations, and how community leaders can have a role as a supportive resource.

United States Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: “The U. S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Louisiana and Community Relations Service will continue to work together to achieve positive results in our common goal to bring peace and healing to communities within the State of Louisiana. It is our mission to instill confidence in the fairness and integrity of the judicial system and will pursue this process in the most efficient and effective manner possible.”

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