



**LEGAL INSURRECTION FOUNDATION**  
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January 17, 2023

**Via Email**

Nelson Event Center  
c/o Lang's Bowlerama  
225 Niantic Avenue  
Providence, RI 02907

**Re: Providence School District "Educators of Color Meet Up" at Nelson Event Center**

To Whom It May Concern:

I write on behalf of the Legal Insurrection Foundation ("LIF"), a Rhode Island tax-exempt non-profit that, among other things, seeks to ensure equal protection and non-discrimination in education, and that opposes racial discrimination in America's schools.

On Thursday, January 19, 2023, between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., The Nelson Event Center at Lang's Bowlerama ("NEC") is scheduled to be the venue for an event titled "PPSD Educator of Color Meetup" (the "Event"), organized and sponsored by the Providence Public School District ("PPSD"). The event poster (Exhibit A) indicates that the Event is for "PPSD Educators of Color," and the registration form (Exhibit B - <https://archive.is/CV7ud>) indicates that the purpose of the Event is "to bring **Educators of Color** together" (emphasis in original) and that "[w]e are inviting Educators of Color" to the event.

By its own terms – a Meet Up for "Educators of Color" with only Educators of Color invited – the Event has been promoted as racially exclusionary. Only non-whites have been invited, and the registration form contains a checklist of only non-white categories for attendees

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to use in self-identifying their race and ethnicity. The Event has been promoted by the PPSD on Facebook (<https://archive.is/Cc1kH>), PPSD's website (<https://archive.is/dKPJF>), and internally using racially discriminatory terminology.

The purpose of this letter is to put NEC on notice of the racially discriminatory nature of the Event, since the event is taking place at NEC's facility. Under clear Rhode Island and federal law, it is unlawful for a place of "public accommodation," such as NEC, to discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity. See Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000a(a), and Rhode Island Gen. Law § 11-24-2. While NEC does not appear to have organized the Event and may not have understood the discriminatory way in which the Event was promoted by PPSD when NEC agreed to provide the venue for the Event, by permitting its facility to be used for the Event, NEC's legal non-discrimination obligations are implicated as a matter of law.

The anti-discrimination laws apply regardless of which race or ethnicity is victimized. Events that discriminate against whites are just as unlawful as events that discriminate against non-whites. Because the Event was promoted as a segregated event, the discriminatory taint cannot be wiped away.

Further, government-sponsored programs that discriminate on the basis of race are not only unconstitutional, but also offend state and federal civil rights statutes. By providing the venue for a known racially segregated program, NEC potentially could be held jointly liable for any such violations.

While it is profoundly distressing that a government entity like PPSD would engage in apparent racial discrimination, it is especially troubling that it wishes to do so just days after a federal holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life was dedicated to the ideal of non-discrimination and racial healing.

We thank you for your attention to this letter, and we trust that you will be guided by the legal and moral demands for non-discrimination in a place of public accommodation.

Very truly yours,

/William A. Jacobson/

William A. Jacobson, Esq.  
*President*  
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EXHIBIT A



THE DEI WORK GROUP, A PARTNERSHIP OF THE PPSD OFFICES OF EQUITY & BELONGING AND HUMAN RESOURCES PRESENTS:

# emPOWER

## PPSD EDUCATORS OF COLOR MEET UP


EMBRACING COLLECTIVE STRUGGLE TO ILLUMINATE COLLECTIVE POWER

JANUARY 19 | 4PM-6PM | THE NELSON EVENT CENTER  
225 NIANTIC AVE, CRANSTON, RI 02920

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, SPEAKERS AND MORE!

Let's start off  
2023 together.  
Join us for  
connection and  
community-  
building!

USE QR CODE TO REGISTER!



## EXHIBIT B

# Inaugural emPOWER Meetups Registration

**emPOWER Meetups** is a monthly event hosted by the **Equity & Belonging Office** and the **Human Resources** department to bring **Educators of Color** together for **networking, open feedback sessions, professional/leadership development, mentorship, and goal-setting**.

We will have **music, food, and (alcoholic) drinks**. You will also get to hear from some of your peers in the district who are doing incredible work!

We are inviting Educators of Color (in whatever capacity) in PPSD to attend. If you are interested, please fill out the registration form below and invite your friends!

**Our first meetup is January 19th, 2023 from 4-6pm, The Nelson Event Center, 225 Niantic Ave, Cranston, RI 02920.**

\* \* \*

## Race/Ethnicity (just to know who's joining us!)

- Black or African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian
- Native American/Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Multiracial/Multicultural