

Correspondence received by the  
Concord Select Board  
Week Ending – July 15, 2024

1. Ji Orloff – 34 East Circle
2. Beth Knauss – 157 Hubbard Street

Dear Members of Concord Select Board Member,

On behalf of Race Amity Day Planning Committee, I am sending a belated thank you for your continued support. It was a joyful event with many community members participating the celebration. Thank you, Cameron, for joining the event and sharing the proclamation. More detailed story is below.

With appreciation!  
Ji Orloff  
Rich Yamartino  
Andrew Nyamekye



# RACE AMITY DAY

SAT. JUNE 8, 2024  
**ALCOTT SCHOOL 12:30 PM**  
93 LAUREL ST., CONCORD, MA



Join Families to celebrate the **beauty and diversity** of the town of Concord and its school district

Enjoy **live music**, potluck style **MULTICULTURAL FOODS**, & **games and activities** appropriate for kids and adults

This is a nonpolitical event, all are welcome!



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On Saturday, June 8th, the town of Concord celebrated community and inclusiveness at the town's Annual Race Amity Day at Alcott School. The event, sponsored by a diverse group of local organizations, aimed to foster friendship and understanding across

different racial and cultural backgrounds. The day was marked by various activities and delicious food, drawing about 60 attendees of all ages.

The event was a collaborative effort by Concord Public Schools, the Concord Free Public Library, the Concord Baha'i Community, the Communities Organizing Against Racism (COAR), the Robbins House, and the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council. In 2015, Governor Baker declared the observation of Race Amity Day, and the Massachusetts legislature signed into law an act proclaiming the second Sunday in June as "Race Amity Day". Cameron McKennitt, a member of the Concord select board, opened the festivities by reading the Race Amity Proclamation. A wonderful surprise was a visit from William "Smitty" Smith, Founding Executive Director of the National Center for Race Amity who shared inspiration and wisdom about the importance of coming together in unity. "This is how change starts." he reminded the attendees.

Children and families were especially delighted by the Concord Youth Service Squad's offerings of games and face painting and COAR's social justice rock painting activity, where participants created colorful rocks adorned with messages of kindness and equality to be placed around the community.

One of the standout moments was the participation of the renowned hip-hop dance troupe, The Floor Lords. Founded in the early 1980s by an African-American man, a caucasian man, and a Wampanoag man, the troupe's presence underscored the day's theme of racial amity. Dance instructor and Floor Lords legend Alfonzo "Megatron" Hunt addressed the audience, stating, "We believe in racial diversity... This room speaks for itself. This room gives the energy that we love." El Niño AKA Bboy, a dynamic young man who started with the Floor Lords at the age of six, will represent the United States in Breaking at the Paris 2024 Olympics. El Niño spoke passionately about the power of dance. "When we perform, we like to educate and entertain," he shared. The Floor Lords' performance encouraged attendees to join in and learn new dance moves.

Co-organizer Rich Yamartino remarked, "It's all about bringing people together and building new friendships," reflecting the event's overarching goal. Attendees are encouraged by Concord's commitment to unity in diversity and looking forward to next year's Race Amity Day.

Dear Town Representatives,

You have all been working on moving forward the process of getting much needed cell coverage for Concord Center. Thank you.

Everyone agrees that there is a long-established need for improved cell service in Concord Center. I think the decision on how to address this problem should be made in a way that reflects the best of how our town functions; this challenge can be solved by following best scientific practices. Concord should make a decision that is for the long term - not a quick fix. For that reason, I join the call on the Concord Town Manager and Select Board Members to restrict the proposed RFP to the landfill and Keyes Road only.

**We can achieve better cell coverage for Concord 250 and for the long term without compromising our health and safety.** Placing low height cell towers at Tricon or the Umbrella would be against best scientific practices, and in the case of the Umbrella, the Town's own by-laws. Permitting a tower at Tricon would be against the basis of the by-law. Low height towers of the power proposed are NOT a practice we should be permitting in Concord.

I urge you to act in the best interests of all of Concord's residents and limit the RFP to the landfill and Keyes Road.

Sincerely,

Beth Knauss  
157 Hubbard Street