**CommuniVersity-Texas**

**23 April 2018**

**Rearing Our Own to Succeed by Raising Our Own to Serve**

**Dr. Gary E. Lacefield and Rev. Kyev P. Tatum, Sr., Collaborators**

**Conflict between the police and people from marginalized communities is a constant in many of our affected neighborhoods. The tension is continuously causing adverse community experiences and straining what little trust exists among the families in the community and the police who are responsible for ensuring that the neighborhoods are safe. Community leaders, law enforcement leadership, as well as, the ‘City Fathers’ are praying that the leadership on all sides of the breach are looking for sustainable, positive strategies to help change these conditions.**

**CommuniVersity-Texas is a solution-driven construct that combines the skill sets of the church, community, city, and academia to help resolve conflict, build relationships, reduce crime, and improve the quality of life of individuals that live in these communities and the people who provide the security in these impacted neighborhoods.**

**From housing to employment, to gaining support and access to the proper education and mental tools, CommuniVersity-Texas’ mission is to help develop an environment that provides the tools, experience, and education for the community and law enforcement. The resulting strategies will be to not only prevent, de-escalate, and resolve conflict but to do it in a manner that does not cause the community to lose their dignity but increase their self-worth.**

**This is a collaboration between the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Fort Worth, Rev. Kyev P. Tatum, Sr., and Dr. Gary E. Lacefield, a professor and the Director of the Institute for Mediation at Tarleton State University’s School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Strategic Studies. We invite and encourage other stakeholders committed to building community capacity through education, mediation, and reconciliation to join and support our cause to establish a new norm for our children.**

**Organizers will spend the next few months developing a course of action for this innovative approach to creating and implementing reasonable and sustainable solutions to address problems within our city. Building peace, harmony, dignity, respect, and trust will be the goal and legacy of our great City.**