



L. BROOKS PATTERSON, OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

C O U N T Y M I C H I G A N
D E P A R T M E N T O F E C O N O M I C
D E V E L O P M E N T & C O M M U N I T Y A F F A I R S

COMMUNITY & HOME IMPROVEMENT DIVISION
Karry L. Rieth, Manager

April 1, 2012

Dear Community & Home Improvement Friend:

Every person in Oakland County has an equal right to choose housing suited to his/her needs and financial ability. In support of this precept, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has declared April as "Fair Housing Month" in Oakland County. This year's national theme is "Creating Equal Opportunity in Every Community – Live Free From Housing Discrimination"

This is the 44th anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. This law, together with the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and State of Michigan legislation, prohibits housing discrimination in the sale, rental, financing and advertising of housing and calls for equal opportunity for all citizens regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age, marital status, religion, disability or family status.

Fair housing goals are part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant programs including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs. Communities receiving these federal funds have local responsibilities to affirmatively further fair housing. The following are a few suggested actions which local communities can undertake to further equal housing opportunities.

1. Develop a local public awareness campaign to help educate citizens of their rights under the fair housing laws and where they can call for assistance. **Post the Fair Housing poster in a prominent location.**
2. Adopt and issue a fair housing policy statement to help establish broad support for and understanding of fair housing laws by housing providers, home seekers and the general public.
3. Introduce a proclamation and/or resolution concerning fair housing before your governing body or a committee of the governing body.
4. Pass a fair housing ordinance equivalent to existing Federal and State laws.
5. Urge people who believe they've been harmed by housing discrimination to file complaints with HUD by calling 1-800-669-9777, TDD 1-800-927-9275 or on the internet at www.hud.gov/discrim.html.

6. Undertake actions to assure that land use and development programs funded under CDBG provide greater housing opportunities throughout the community development area for identifiable segments of the total group of lower-income persons in the community.
7. Allocate funds to an organization providing a housing discrimination complaint service and other special programs designed to meet the needs of people protected by the provisions of the fair housing law.
8. Develop marketing goals and advertising procedures to insure the participation of protected group individuals in local housing programs.
9. Secure the voluntary cooperation of real estate firms, developers, appraisers, apartment complex owners, banking and financial institutions, or others in the housing service field in taking affirmative steps to further fair housing for lower income homeowners/renters and expand housing opportunities for all persons.
10. Identify local impediments to fair housing choice and develop strategies to overcome the impediments.

The Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit (call 313 963-1274) and Oakland County Housing Counselors (call 248 858-5402) provide fair housing information to housing consumers and housing providers. Local communities may contact these agencies to help develop local fair housing initiatives.

While April is designated as national "Fair Housing Month", observance of national and state fair housing laws must be a year-long initiative for everyone. The Community & Home Improvement Division can provide technical assistance or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Karry L. Rieth
Manager

KR/jhb



Economic Development & Community Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **Karry Rieth**, Manager, Oakland County Community & Home Improvement
(248) 858-5403

**Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson
Declares April Oakland County Fair Housing Month**

**“Creating Equal Opportunity in Every Community -
Live Free From Housing Discrimination”**

PONTIAC, Mich. – March 30, 2012 – Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has declared April as Oakland County Fair Housing Month, in recognition of the 44th anniversary of the signing of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

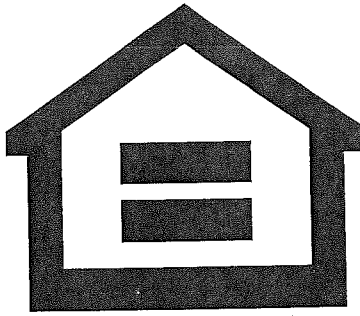
“There is ample evidence to indicate that unlawful discrimination is widespread so the fight against housing discrimination must continue,” Patterson said. “I hope that this declaration of April as Oakland County Fair Housing Month will increase awareness of the fair housing laws and the various organizations working to protect individuals in their search for housing of their choice.”

The act as well as other state and federal laws protects buyers or renters of a dwelling from seller/landlord discrimination based on sex, color, race, age, religion, national origin, disability, family or marital status.

A Housing Counselor is available to all Oakland County residents to assist in cases of suspected discrimination. Inquiries may be directed to the Oakland County Housing Counselor at (248) 858-5402, or to the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit at (313) 963-1274.

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L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive
2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Bldg. 41W | Waterford, Michigan 48328-0414
(248) 858-1848 Fax: (248) 452-2039 | www.oakgov.com



**EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY**

**We Do Business in Accordance With the Federal Fair
Housing Law**

(The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988)

**It is illegal to Discriminate Against Any Person
Because of Race, Color, Religion, Sex,
Handicap, Familial Status, or National Origin**

- In the sale or rental of housing or residential lots
- In advertising the sale or rental of housing
- In the financing of housing
- In the provision of real estate brokerage services
- In the appraisal of housing
- Blockbusting is also illegal

Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination:

1-800-669-9777 (Toll Free)
1-800-927-9275 (TTY)

U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development
Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and
Equal Opportunity
Washington, D.C. 20410