



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, April 20, 2023

## City of San Diego Joins Local Agencies to Shed a Light on Housing Discrimination

CITY TO COHOST ANNUAL FAIR HOUSING CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK DURING FAIR HOUSING MONTH

SAN DIEGO – Each year, more than <u>30,000 Americans</u> say they face discrimination while trying to secure housing, according to the National Fair Housing Alliance. This is almost a 9% increase in complaints received by fair housing agencies since 2020.

To learn more about this issue and how it affects people locally, the City of San Diego's <u>Economic Development Department</u> (EDD) along with the San Diego Regional Alliance for Fair Housing (SDRAFFH) and the San Diego Housing Federation will hold the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual <u>Fair Housing Conference</u>. It will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 26, and Thursday, April 27, with the theme "Crashing Through Hidden Barriers to Fair Housing."

"Housing discrimination is an issue that continues to plague the community, 55 years after the federal Fair Housing Act was enacted," said Christina Bibler, EDD Director. "This conference will offer an opportunity to explore fair housing protections and solutions for improving our communities."

A recent report by the National Fair Housing Alliance said an overwhelming number of housing discrimination goes undetected or unreported. The report says housing providers may engage in different types of discrimination such as being dishonest about the availability of housing, the price of rent, undervaluing the appraisal of a home because of the race of the homeowners and much more.

The SDRAFFH is a dedicated group of professionals working together to ensure that all residents in San Diego County have equal access to housing. It is comprised of members of the fair housing community, government entities, enforcement agencies and housing providers.

April is National Fair Housing Month and the City of San Diego has several <u>resources</u> residents can use to educate themselves about fair housing, **including a hotline to report issues**. **If you suspect you are a victim of housing discrimination**, **please call 844-449-3500**.

The 2023 SDRAFFH Fair Housing Conference explores critical fair housing issues that are impacting San Diego County and its diverse communities. All interested San Diegans are encouraged to attend.

Registration will close on Friday, April 21, at 5 p.m. For additional information and to register, visit sdfairhousing.org/portfolio/events/.

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