

Practice Fair Housing

Spring 2018 | Vol. 7 Issue 5

Equal access to housing is a right protected by both federal and state law. The City of San Diego strives to increase housing opportunities and equality for its citizens. Our Practice Fair Housing program offers free services to the community to promote equal housing opportunities. Our program goal emphasizes solutions through education and enforcement to ensure our shared values of community, opportunity and equality.

FAIR HOUSING ACT TURNS 50: HAS AMERICA CHANGED?

New study looks at society a half century after Kerner Report showed need for change

Years of civil unrest and social frustration erupted in the summer of 1967, setting off violent riots and racial disorder in American cities, the worst of the events rampaging Newark and then Detroit, leaving 69 people dead. Cities, particularly those with poor, black neighborhoods, were saturated with fear, tension and violence, prompting President Lyndon Johnson to constitute the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders in July 1967.

The commission, chaired by Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner Jr., issued what informally became known as the Kerner Report (1968). It concluded that the nation was “moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal.” The report delivered an indictment of “white society” for isolating and neglecting blacks with “segregated housing, subpar public schools and aggressive policing of black and brown communities.” The report urged legislation to promote racial integration and

enrichment of “ghetto” communities with job creation, job training and improved housing.

But Johnson condemned the report.

A month later, on April 4, 1968, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, sparking more protests. A week later, on April 11, Johnson signed into law Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, commonly known as the **Fair**

Housing Act, and proclaimed: “At long last, fair housing for all is now a part of the American way of life. We have come some of the way—not near all of it.”

Please see ACT on Page 2



Council President Myrtle Cole and Legal Aid Society of San Diego CEO/executive director/chief counsel Gregory E. Knoll display the proclamation declaring Fair Housing Month on April 10, 2018 at City Council.

April Brings Fair Housing Celebrations

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, Council President Myrtle Cole and staff from the City's Economic Development Department and Legal Aid Society of San Diego Inc., gathered at City Council on April 10 to recognize April as Fair Housing Month in the City of San Diego.

Mayor Faulconer spoke about the City's continuing commitment to creating inclusive neighborhoods and providing affordable housing opportunities and equal access to housing and housing services that are free from discrimination on the basis on race, religion, disability and other protected classes. Council President Cole recognized the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act.

Learn more about April Fair Housing events inside.

In the News

Community Input Sought for Fair Housing Analysis, New HUD Assessment Deferred

The Federal Register issued a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice 83 FR 683 in January, extending the **Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH)** submission deadline beyond Oct. 31, 2020. The AFH is HUD's new streamlined process that jurisdictions will use to understand and evaluate their Fair Housing landscapes. When implemented, AFH will replace the **Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing Choice (AI)**.

As the City of San Diego updates its AI this fall, the community will be able to participate in public meetings posted at www.sandiego.gov/fairhousing as soon as they are scheduled. To receive AI meeting updates, please email us at cdbg@sandiego.gov and request to be added to our email list.



Experts Chart the Course of Housing at Annual Fair Housing Conference

Community activist Gloria Cooper (above) held up a sign, "Colored Waiting Room." This was segregation the longtime Valencia Park witnessed in her youth.

Perspectives on the "History of Living Patterns in San Diego" began a day of both celebration and reflection at the third annual Fair Housing Conference, *Charting the Course: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act*, on April 6 at the San Diego Central Library. Nearly 200 people attended the event for community activists, housing experts, policymakers and the public.

Branden Butler, president of the San Diego Regional Alliance for Fair Housing and senior attorney of the Fair Housing Center at the Legal Aid Society of San Diego contended that today's housing patterns were decades in the making.

Economic Policy Institute research associate Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, delivered the keynote address. A KPBS interview on Rothstein can be found at www.kpbs.org/news/2018/apr/05/Redlinings-Mark-On-San-Diego-Persists/.



On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, or the Fair Housing Act, which was co-sponsored by then-Senators Edward Brooke and Walter Mondale.

ACT

Continued from Page One

The Act, with amendments in 1974 and 1988, outlaws housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or familial status.

While the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act might be occasion for celebration, a new report, "Healing our Divided Society: Investing in America Fifty Years after the Kerner Report," shows that racial economic inequality has deepened. Co-edited by former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris (Okla.), the last surviving member of the original Kerner Commission, the report had several key findings:

- The percentage of people living in deep poverty—those earning less than half of the federal poverty level—has increased from 30 percent in 1975 to 46 percent in 2016.
- From 1968, when the Fair Housing Act was passed, to 1998, black homeownership increased 6 percent. But those gains disappeared between 2000 and 2015 with a 6 percent decrease largely attributable to the disproportionate effects of the subprime mortgage crisis on minority families.
- Only 20 percent of black students attend majority-white schools nationally, down from 44 percent 1988, the same year that courts began reversing desegregation policies.
- The percentage of unemployed blacks in 2017 was 7.5, up from 6.7 percent in 1968 and still about twice the white unemployment rate.

People of color and those living in poverty are residing in poor areas with inadequate housings and underfunded schools, the report said.

A half century after the landmark Kerner Report, Americans still can turn to the Fair Housing Act as an important tool for promoting each community as a place where people can live in inclusive, diverse neighborhoods with quality schools, meaningful jobs, healthcare, green spaces and the other opportunities that frame and affect our lives.

Fair Housing Training

for Housing Providers

Know your rights and responsibilities.

Where: San Diego Central Library
Shiley Special Events Suite, Ninth Floor
330 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101

When: Friday, April 13, 2018, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Cost: Free

REGISTER TODAY

Call: Legal Aid Society of San Diego, 619-471-2749

Email: Iva Lunsford, Legal Aid Society
ivaL@lassd.org

Calendar

GET THE LATEST updates on Fair Housing events, workshops and activities at www.sandiego.gov/fairhousing



See Mayor Faulconer's 2018 PSA at www.sandiego.gov/fairhousing.



The City of San Diego Economic Development Department & The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

FREE!

INVITE YOU TO THE

Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST Design & Construction Training



DETAILS:

June 21st, 2018
8:00AM – 4:15PM PST

San Diego Concourse
202 C Street
Silver Room 250
San Diego, California 92101
1-619-236-7029

REGISTRATION:

fhafirst.eventbrite.com

INFORMATION:

Requests for reasonable accommodations and questions may be directed to:

KSalmon@lcmarchitects.com
1-312-913-1717 x 248

AGENDA – June 21st

8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:45 – 10:15	Design & Construction Requirements of the Fair Housing Act, Technical Overview – Module 10 – Part 1
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 12:00	Design & Construction Requirements of the Fair Housing Act, Technical Overview – Module 10 – Part II
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch –not provided, plan accordingly
1:00 – 2:30	Accessible Public & Common Use Areas – Module 8
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:15	Common Design & Construction Violations & Solutions – Module 9

Fair Housing

Accessibility FIRST:

Our mission is to promote compliance with the Fair Housing Act design and construction requirements. The program offers comprehensive detailed instruction & online web resources at www.fairhousingfirst.org.

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE:

HUD supports a dedicated call center, the FIRST Design and Construction Resource Center – (DCRC).

Call 1-888-341-7781

Our toll-free information line for technical guidance

PARTNERS:

Sponsored by HUD and the City of San Diego Economic Development Department

Co-sponsored by the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc., the San Diego Regional Alliance for Fair Housing, and the San Diego Housing Federation



*This program is registered with the American Institute of Architects. Architects will receive up to 6 continuing education HSW credits.

The Resource Page

FAIR HOUSING 101

Fair Housing is the ability of persons of similar income levels who are seeking housing in similar housing markets and who have like qualifications to have the same availability of housing choices regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability (physical/mental) or familial status (presence of children) -- as provided under the federal Fair Housing Act.

In addition to the protections provided by the Federal Fair Housing Act, the **California Fair Employment and Housing Act of 1959** protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of the following:

- **Ancestry**
- **Age**
- **Sexual orientation**
- **Gender identity, gender expression**
- **Genetic information**
- **Marital status**
- **Familial status**
- **Source of income**

FILE A DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

If you believe you have been denied housing or the opportunity to apply for housing in the City because of a characteristic protected by federal or state law, contact the City's **Fair Housing Hotline** at **1-844-449-3500**.

- Make sure to contact the hotline within one year of the incident.
- Speak to a housing counselor and provide facts about the incident.
- If merited, your incident may be referred to a legal representative for further investigation.
- An attempt will be made to assist both parties in resolving the issue.
- If the issue remains unresolved and there is evidence that a violation has occurred, the complaint may be litigated in court.

LOCAL RESOURCES



The City has engaged the services of Legal Aid Society of San Diego Inc. to provide community outreach and legal services.

Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.

110 S. Euclid Ave.
San Diego, CA 92114
General inquiries: 1-877-534-2524
Fair Housing Center and Hotline:
1-844-449-3500
www.lasds.org

MULTILINGUAL BROCHURES

Visit www.sandiego.gov/fairhousing to view Fair Housing brochures in Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

This newsletter is funded in whole or in part with Community Development Block Grant Program funds provided by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the City of San Diego.

Practice Fair Housing

At a Glance

Campaign Accomplishments

July 1, 2017 - Dec. 31, 2017

2,700 multilingual informational brochures distributed

1,520 Fair Housing inquiries received

89 Fair Housing discrimination investigations implemented

68 Fair Housing investigations resolved

167* random Fair Housing tests conducted

8 workshops conducted

503 persons educated regarding Fair Housing rights

** Funded by CDBG and the Fair Housing Initiative Program grant*

MORE FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Fair Housing Division

600 Harrison St., Third floor
San Francisco, CA 94107-1300
1-800-347-3739
www.hud.gov/fairhousing



State Department of Fair Employment and Housing

611 W. Sixth St., Room 150
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3101
1-800-233-3212
www.dfeh.ca.gov

The City of

SAN DIEGO