



PRESS RELEASE
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Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Study:

Civil Rights and the Impact of Fair Housing Access and Zoning Practices in Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a series of public, web-based meetings to discuss the impact of Fair Housing Access and Zoning Practices in Pennsylvania. The Committee will examine the impact of zoning laws, municipal nuisance laws, crime-free housing ordinances, and related fair housing concerns on disparities based on race, color, disability status, national origin, age, religion, sex and/or familial status. The Committee will examine the extent to which specific state or local policies and practices may contribute to identified disparities, as well as alternative practices or recommendations with the demonstrated potential to address such concerns.

The meetings will take place:

Panel I: Friday March 18, 2022, from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm EST

Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/3Blg0UA>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 2764 260 7579

Panel II: Friday April 22, 2022, from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm EST

Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/3BnT4nS>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 2760 963 7104

Panel III: Friday April 29, 2022, from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm EST

Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/3gLybcD>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 2760 860 9626

The Committee will hear testimony from academic experts, community leaders, advocates, lawyers, and housing and government officials. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period near the end of each meeting. This is an ongoing study and additional panels may be scheduled throughout Summer of 2022. The Committee will accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov throughout the duration of the study.

Closed captions will be provided. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the regional program unit at (202) 618-4158 five business days prior to the meeting to make their request.

Committee Chair Steve Irwin states, “sadly, it appears that discrimination in housing opportunity persists, and that certain laws in place either perpetuate racial disparities or are not sufficiently

enforced to prevent these unacceptable outcomes. I am very happy that the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee is committing to investigate this situation more thoroughly and look forward to reporting our findings & recommendations to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.”

The Pennsylvania Advisory Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).