

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS Eastern Regional Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2010

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D.C. ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CONVENE
BRIEFING ON FAIR HOUSING ACT
COMPLIANCE

What: Public Briefing before the District of Columbia State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

When: Thursday, September 16, 2010, 10:00 a.m. EDT

Where: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
624 9th St., NW, Room 540
Washington, DC

WASHINGTON, DC - The District of Columbia State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (DC SAC) will convene a briefing entitled, "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing." The meeting is open to the public and media.

Background: The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability. Section 808(e)(5) of the *Fair Housing Act* requires the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to administer housing and urban development programs in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing. Pursuant to that requirement HUD requires grantees to prepare Analyses of Impediments to Fair Housing every five years and take appropriate steps to address the identified impediments.

The District of Columbia last prepared the required Analysis in 2005, listing four impediments: real estate market participants not complying with fair housing laws; decreasing number of DC neighborhoods offering affordable housing for low-, moderate-income, and special needs persons; affected individuals or households not considering a sufficiently broad range of neighborhoods; and low levels of knowledge about buying a house, or poor credit histories among some individuals.

The DC SAC has invited District of Columbia government officials, Fair Housing and Fair Lending organizations, and other advocates to discuss the District's progress, or lack thereof, in addressing these impediments, whether these impediments are still present, and whether others should be added or substituted.

The District of Columbia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Congress has directed the Commission to establish advisory committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, whose members serve without compensation. State committees receive reports, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals, public officials, and representatives of public and private organizations in response to committee inquiries. The SACs' reports to the Commission are wholly independent, and are reviewed by Commission staff only for legal and procedural compliance with Commission policies and procedures. SAC reports are not subject to Commission approval, fact-checking or policy changes.

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