

Fair Housing Newsletter

June 2010



The BOWLING GREEN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION is a non-profit organization committed to serving the community through advocating for the rights of the protected classes which include: race, color, religion, national origin, age (over 40), sex and disability. Created by city ordinance in 1966, the commission also investigates allegations of discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Overall its efforts focus on education, assistance, and promoting positive human relations within the community.

Fair Housing Events For June/July 2010

Fair Housing Coalition Meeting –June 10th

Fair Housing Open House for Service Agencies - July 29th

Fair Housing History

The enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968 came only after a long and difficult journey. From 1966-1967, Congress regularly considered the fair housing bill, but failed to garner a strong enough majority for its passage. However, when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill's speedy Congressional approval. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name had been closely associated with the fair housing legislation. President Johnson viewed the Act as a fitting memorial to the man's life work. With the passage of the Fair Housing Law in 1968, Kentucky established a public policy of encouraging fair treatment and equal opportunities for all persons, regardless of race, color, religion or national origin. The General Assembly said that discrimination against an individual represents an affront to the dignity of the individual against whom it is directed, intensifies group conflicts, and is detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare. In 1972, the General Assembly broadened this law by eliminating all major exemptions and thus covering all housing in Kentucky. Discrimination in the public sale or rental of an individual home by the owner was prohibited. In 1980 the law was broadened to prohibit sex discrimination in housing and in 1992 the law was expanded to prohibit familial status and disability discrimination in housing.

FHEO Launches National Fair Housing Collegiate Partnership Campaign

On January 18, 2010, HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity has launched its first-ever National Fair Housing Collegiate Partnership Campaign on the campus of Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN. This education and outreach campaign is designed to educate college and university students about their fair housing rights and encourage them to consider public service as a career option. The purpose of this Campaign is to develop the next generation of leaders and advocates in fair housing.

As part of the Campaign, HUD, with the assistance of its fair housing partners, will conduct fair housing seminars at local colleges and universities that highlight the Fair Housing Act and their rights under the law; involve collegiate participation in Fair Housing Month events, provide fair housing information to collegiate administration; share federal employment opportunities with college and university career development centers; and utilize social networking media to provide fair housing information.

To learn more about this Campaign go to:

<http://hud.gov/offices/FHEO/collegiatepartnership/promotingfh.cfm>

For additional information! Please contact us at, 491 Double Springs Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, 270.782.7900