



# FAIR HOUSING DIVISION:

Livable City Initiative (LCI) Email:

## In this issue:

Discrimination in housing because of birthplace, ancestry, culture or language is prohibited. (Also, see attachments w/ printable office poster and options for past emails).

## Fair Housing, it's Your Right:

### 'National Origin Act:' (Historical Perspective)

In 1924 Congress passed a discriminatory immigration law that restricted the immigration of Southern and Eastern Europeans and practically excluded Asians and other nonwhites from entry into the United States.

#### Historical Perspective:

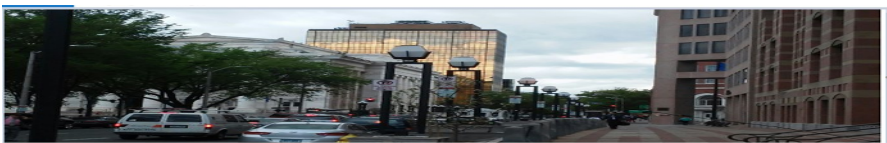
The ACT setup a quotas system that used the 1890 census population of particular nationality groups where the government would allow only 2% of that groups' population to immigrate to the USA. Additionally, the act completely barred immigration for all those whom the Supreme Court prohibited from obtaining U.S. citizenship, specifically Asians. As a result of this ACT, the annual quota of immigration was lowered drastically from 358,000 to 164,000. The National Origins quota system was abolished by Congress in the 1960's.

#### **Federal Protections Against National Origin Discrimination:**

Laws prohibiting national origin discrimination make it illegal to discriminate because of a person's birthplace, ancestry, culture or language. This means people cannot be denied equal opportunity because they or their family are from another country, because they have a name or accent associated with a national origin group, because they participate in certain customs associated with a national origin group, or because they are married to or associate with people of a certain national origin.

The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division is concerned that national origin discrimination may go unreported in the United States because victims of discrimination do not know their legal rights, or may be afraid to complain to the government. To address this problem, the Civil Rights Division has established a National Origin Working Group to help citizens and immigrants better understand and exercise their legal rights.

If you feel that you've been victimized by housing discrimination in the City of New Haven, please call LCI at 203-946-7062/7090 for assistance/resources.



Downtown New Haven, Connecticut