



# FAIR HOUSING DIVISION:

Livable City Initiative (LCI) Email:

## In this issue:

- Housing discrimination based on **RACE** or **COLOR**.

## Learn about the Fair Housing Act: **Discrimination in Housing Based on Race or Color:**

One of the central objectives of the Fair Housing Act, when Congress enacted it in 1968, was to prohibit race discrimination in sales and rentals of housing.



For the past 48 plus years, since the enactment of the law, race discrimination in housing continues to be a problem. The majority of the Justice Department's pattern or practice cases involves claims of race discrimination. Sometimes, housing providers try to disguise their discrimination by giving false information about the availability of housing, either

saying that nothing was available or steering home-seekers to certain areas based on race. Individuals who received such false information or misdirection may have no knowledge that they have been victims of discrimination. The Department of Justice has brought many cases alleging this kind of discrimination based on race or color. In addition, the Department's Fair Housing Testing Program seeks to uncover the kind of hidden discrimination and hold those responsible accountable. Most of the mortgage lending cases brought by the Department under the Fair Housing Act and Equal Credit Opportunity Act have alleged discrimination based on race or color. Some of the Department's cases have also alleged that municipalities and other local government entities violated the Fair Housing Act when they denied permits or zoning changes for housing developments, or relegated them to predominantly minority neighborhoods, because the prospective residents were expected to be predominantly African-Americans.



Photo: March on Washington, 1963. Prior the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

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