

# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

## *Commission on Human Relations*

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### *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR & AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Pittsburgh (PA)** - The City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) is encouraged by the City's Affordable Housing Task Force recommendations to elected officials to expand affordable housing options. The expansion and promotion of affordable housing stock is intrinsically tied to fair housing. It may expand opportunities for all people to have access to and the right to select fair and affordable housing options in neighborhoods of their choice. These choices must be available to all individuals regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or familial status.

In the coming weeks and months local elected officials will take time to consider all of the recommendations, the Commission encourages decision makers to consider how to incorporate their obligations to *affirmatively further fair housing* to ensure that new policies truly expand access to equal and fair housing opportunities.

Since the establishment of the Fair Housing Act, the law prevents discrimination in housing related activities, and imposes a duty on local governments, States and public housing authorities to affirmatively further fair housing. To affirmatively further fair housing means taking meaningful actions that address persistent patterns of segregation, assist in transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and to foster and maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.

Since 2013, the Commission has spearheaded the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Task Force with the goals to assess barriers to fair housing, and create recommendations to address them. In the upcoming months, the AFFH Task Force will provide a series of recommendations to enhance and compliment the AHTF's work, and promote affordable and fair housing for all.

Recipients of funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have long standing obligations to affirmatively further fair housing. The decisions of elected representatives and communities in making place-based investments to revitalize distressed areas or expand access to quality affordable housing throughout high opportunity areas are crucial for meeting these obligations.

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