



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

“America’s Most Livable City”

Commission on Human Relations

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Dear Colleagues and Residents of Pittsburgh,

In December 2015, the City Council passed legislation to include Source of Income (SoI) as a protected class under the City’s Unlawful Housing Ordinance, enforced by the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PCHR). The addition of source of income as a protected class under this ordinance means that housing providers must accept all forms of lawful source of income, not just earned income. In February 2016, the Apartment Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh sued the City, alleging that the inclusion of source of income as a protected class would make the Housing Choice Voucher (“Section 8”) program a mandatory rather than voluntary program. The case is ongoing.

April is National Fair Housing month, and Fair Housing means equal access and opportunity to housing choices. A city-wide acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers would help to ensure that families have better access to live in communities of their choice, and not just communities where housing providers accept vouchers.

It is vital to the prosperity and progress of the Pittsburgh community to include Source of Income, and specifically Housing Choice Vouchers, as a protected class. I wholeheartedly support the recent ordinance passed to include Source of Income. It is vital to the development, advancement and success of the Pittsburgh community to ensure equal access and opportunity to housing in every neighborhood. This ordinance is a major step in the right direction.

We need your help making Pittsburgh America’s Most Livable City. Please reach out to your local representatives if you too believe that source of income protection would help expand housing opportunity and choice for residents of Pittsburgh. Let’s work together to eliminate discrimination and make Pittsburgh, “America’s Most Diverse and Accepting city”. The Commission on Human Relations urges you, the residents of Pittsburgh, to voice your opinion on this ordinance. Please contact your elected official in support of the SoI ordinance.

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Respectfully,



Carlos Torres, MPA
Executive Director