

May 22, 2018

Cleveland Heights City Council

This letter is written on behalf of the City of Cleveland Heights' Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

The Community Development Block Grant goals include creating housing opportunities especially for low and moderate income persons and encouraging the integration of population groups within the community.

Fair Housing Center for Rights and Research, Research Associate, Lenore Mangiarelli, spoke to the Citizens Advisory Council at the April 17th meeting. She shared the findings from the Center's 2017 report "Housing Voucher Discrimination and Race Discrimination in Cuyahoga County" available on their website, [www.thehousingcenter.org](http://www.thehousingcenter.org).

The presentation and report clearly made the case for reducing the obstructions to racial and income diversity in Northeast Ohio. Refusal to accept tenants using the CMHA Housing Voucher Program (sometimes referred to as Section 8) and other programs that aid low income renters in obtaining housing is often used as a proxy for racial prejudice.

While reducing discrimination is a national and regional issue, Cleveland Heights has always taken a leadership position on this issue. CAC encourages the City Council to explore ways to help low income persons avoid source of income discrimination through policy positions, education and legislation. Adjacent suburbs, University Heights and South Euclid, have included source of income as a protected class in their fair housing legislation.

The CAC stands ready to support your efforts to continue to reduce housing discrimination in our community.

Sincerely,

Stephen Titchenal

Chair, Cleveland Heights Citizens Advisory Committee