

CITY OF FAIRBANKS  
FAIR HOUSING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
June 15, 2005  
12:00 Noon

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**FAIR HOUSING**

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Present: Carmen Randle-Grants Administrator, facilitator, Ron Woolf-Chief Finance Officer  
City of Fairbanks.

Via Teleconference: Jerry Chris and Gail West, HUD, Anchorage and Bob Picket AFHC, Anchorage.

Public In Attendance: LeeAnn Amerson-Fairbanks Community Mental Health Center, Jackie Debut-Mt. McKinley Bank, Maria DeBonn, Alaska Housing Finance Corp., Stacey Risner-Greater Fbks Board of Realtor, Sharon Camarada-Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Leona Aldridge-Fairbanks School District Homeless Liaison, Warren Cummings-Fire Chief COF, Ross Newcome-Fbks Community Mental Health Center, Missy Olsen and Wendy Stegner-Northern Schools Federal Credit Union, Rene Patton-Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing Service.

**Ms. Randle** explained the reasons for the public hearing, which would allow an analysis of the impediments of Fair Housing in the City of Fairbanks, so that the HUD funds may be received by the City. She stated that a need has been expressed for some type of consortium in the city for the fair housing needs, which would allow cooperation between the city and agencies. She discussed the definition of impediments to fair housing, as stated in the meeting agenda. She reviewed various surveys put together by Alaska Housing, which would help in addressing areas of discrimination. She recommended that everyone present complete a survey.

**Gail West:** Requested that introductions be made.

**Ms. Randle:** Read the attendance roll. She spoke to the Fair Housing guidelines, including affordable housing which are not necessary for her to understand impediment but requested that the various organizations provide input regarding affordable housing. Hearing no comment she inquired whether anyone was interested in forming a consortium. She called on Rene Patton.

**Ms. Patton** spoke in support of an community effort and expressed her interest in insuring that discrimination affects on housing or on neighborhoods is known, and that a consortium be inclusive of all groups of people.

**Gail West:** Asked Ms. Patton to speak to the Home Opportunity Fair.

**Ms. Patton** spoke to the Housing Opportunity Fairs put on by HUD, Alaska Housing and Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing and to the upcoming Fair to be held at the Carlson Center on September 17,

2005. She expressed her willingness to work on any upcoming events and encouraged participation in drafting a Fair Housing piece to the fair.

**Unknown speaker:** Spoke to the value of the vendors and realtors working together.

**Ms. Patton** spoke to the former affordable housing network group and to the value of a housing consortium made up of as many people, representing various organizations, as possible.

**Ms. Randle** spoke to providing the sign-in roster to Ms. Patton and spoke to the efforts of the Municipality of Anchorage regarding impediments to fair housing. She addressed the initial findings of the Municipality of Anchorage, which include shortage of affordable housing,

**Ms. West** spoke to the SOA Faith Based and Community Initiative Task Force which conducted a survey in each community involved, and to the results of that survey the top finding of which was a lack of affordable housing all over the State. She offered to send a copy of the Task Force report.

**Ms. Patton** addressed safety issues of low income neighborhoods, resulting from lack of equal representation. She spoke to code requirements, playground improvements, rentals, and other concerns regarding safety issues.

**Ms. West** asked for a representative from the Fire Department to participate in the Home Opportunity Fair.

**Warren Cummings**, Fire Chief, stated that the Fire Department would plan on participating as long as they were provided information.

**Ms. Randle:** spoke to the discriminating issue of the census tracts set by the United States government and asked for suggestions to remedy such. She spoke to zoning issues in Anchorage which became impediments to fair housing.

**Ms. Patton** agreed that the zoning was an issue in two distressed housing areas in Anchorage.

**Ms. Randle:** spoke to the issue of lending as an impediment to fair housing in the Municipality of Anchorage, potentially a race or gender discrimination issue.

**Unknown Speaker:** Addressed the process for lending.

**Ms. Randle:** spoke to the issue of lack of education as an impediment to fair housing in Anchorage, where everyone in the community needed to be more informed.  
Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PM.

**Ms. Patton** informed listeners that there is no fair housing advocacy organization in the State of Alaska. She explained that the State Human Rights Commission and HUD are available for enforcement but that advocacy is not available in the State.

**Ms. Randle:** spoke to the finding of limited English proficiency as an impediment to fair housing.

**Ms. Aldrich, of the FNSB School District** agreed that the problem existed and recommended that translations of the law might be needed.

**Ms. Randle:** spoke to the complaint and enforcement process and increasing awareness of the same. Discussion ensued regarding the process and availability of information regarding the process. She addressed other forms of discrimination, and spoke to housing which allowed service and companion animals. She asked for questions.

**Unknown Speaker:** Spoke to the pet issue and Alaska Housing training which provided information on the subject. She suggested adding this information to the Housing Opportunity Fair, the Home Show or other promotional events.

**Ms. Randle:** asked for input on other discrimination issues, and addressed homelessness.

**Unknown Speaker:** Spoke to the issue of teenagers, with no rental history and with inadequate income. Discussion ensued regarding legal emancipation and solutions to the problem.

Ms. Randall

**Bob Picket** suggested that as impediments are identified for the Fair Housing plan, to stay focused on the protective classes. He spoke to the homeless issue as an impediment, but warned that teen problems may not qualify as an impediment.

**Ms. Randle:** asked whether children qualify as a protective class, up the age of 18.

**Bob Picket** provided clarification and again recommended staying focused on the identified protective classes

**Unknown Speaker:** Spoke to the lack of case workers in Fairbanks to assist with assigning affordable housing.

**Ms. Randle:** stated that the lack of manpower was more of a barrier than an impediment. Discussion ensued regarding the causes of restricted housing choices.

**Ms. West** spoke to forming a group where the issued could be discussed.

**Ms. Randle:** asked for those in attendance to take time to complete the surveys which would be completed and sent to Mr. Picket. She suggested that surveys be provided to other groups not in attendance.

**Sharon Camarada,** Consumer Credit, spoke to the Fair Housing problems in Fairbanks, in regard to credit, including housing for military. She spoke to being involved in a task force, and spoke to converting information to Spanish and other languages. A question was asked regarding classes for individuals wanting to repair their credit history and Ms. Camarada affirmed that such information was available. Discussion ensued regarding free informational classes available through HUD and Love Inc. and the need for such.

**Ms. West** introduced Deb Alston with the Native/American Program, also attending telephonically. She inquired whether Interior Regional had been invited to attend the hearing, and asked that they be provided a copy of the survey as they were not in attendance.

**Ms. Randle:** expressed her appreciation for everyone attendance and participation.

**Ms. Randle:** was asked if there would be a task force formed and Ms. Patton expressed that she would be willing to work on such with the City. Ms. Randall stated that she would provide the attendance list with Ms. Patton. She again thanked everyone for their attendance.

Transcribed by:  
Carol L. Colp CMC,  
City Clerk  
July 12, 2005