



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**  
BUREAU OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT

**Mayor Tom Potter**  
Will White, Director  
421 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland OR 97204  
(503) 823-2375  
Fax (503) 823-2387  
[www.portlandonline.com/BHCD](http://www.portlandonline.com/BHCD)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
06/16/2005

TRACY LEHTO

503 823-2355

**Housing and Community Development Commission Hosts  
a Public Hearing on Barriers to Fair Housing**

The Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) will hold a public hearing on July 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will take place at the Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne, in the first floor Board Room. HCDC will accept public testimony on barriers to fair housing in Multnomah County, including discrimination in financing, purchasing, or renting a home based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, source of income and/or the presence of children in the household (family status).

Individuals and organizations are invited to testify on any barriers to fair housing and housing choice.

In addition, testimony will be accepted about the City of Portland's Location Policy that guides the location of new publicly funded affordable housing units.

Testimony will be used to develop a new Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AOI), a report that describes current barriers and makes recommendations for addressing them. The AOI will also include an updated Location Policy. The AOI will be issued in Fall 2005.

The last AOI for Multnomah County was completed in 1996. That AOI highlighted the difficulty in locating affordable units and led to the development of Housing Connections, a web-based service that allows users to search for a wide variety of housing options. **HousingConnections.org** has performed 514,000 searches since its inception in 2002.

"We will use the Analysis of Impediments to do more than just document problems. The process of developing the AOI is an opportunity for us to engage the community in devising new ways to expand housing choice for people of every race and family type, and at every income," said Will White, Director of the City of Portland's Bureau of Housing and Community Development.

The 1996 AOI also noted discrimination based on race in both renting and purchasing homes. A recent report on the minority homeownership gap documented that 57% of white households own homes, in comparison with 37% of minority households. In FY 2005-06, the City will be investing 1.6 million dollars to increase the rate of minority homeownership.

In the last year, for Multnomah County, the Fair Housing Council of Oregon received 31 complaints of race and national origin discrimination, 0 complaints of religious discrimination, 37 complaints of disability discrimination and 13 complaints based on family status. Bureau of Labor and Industries received 15 complaints of discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation.

The hearing will be accessible to people with mobility impairments. Translation services and sign language interpreters will be available upon request. Please notify Ruth Benson, Bureau of Housing and Community Development, (503) 823-2392, (503) 823-6868 (TTY) at least seven days before the hearings if you need these services.

Testimony can also be submitted by email to [bhcdinfo@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhcdinfo@ci.portland.or.us) or by letter to the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, attention Fair Housing, 421 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Room 1100, Portland, OR 97204. All testimony must be received by July 29, 2005.

- end -