



FAIR HOUSING NEWS

A newsletter about fair housing, community development, & neighborhood quality of life



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WINTER GREETINGS!

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NATIONAL NEWS

Experts Testify to the Housing Committee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance on the Negative Impact of Exclusionary Zoning.

On October 15th, the US House of Representatives' Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance held a virtual hearing to examine the impact exclusionary zoning policies have on affordable housing and community development. Topics discussed, included gentrification, the formation of community land trusts, inequities in housing access, impacts on low income and communities of color, exclusionary zoning regulations and segregation, and upholding the Fair Housing Act. The experts included Sheryll D. Cashin, Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law, Civil Rights, and Social Justice, Georgetown University; Richard D. Kahlenberg, Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation; Dora Leong Gallo, President and CEO, A Community of Friends; and Thomas Silverstein, Associate Director of Fair Housing & Community Development Project, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. [Go to the October 15, 2021 C-SPAN article with a transcript.](#) [Go to the Committee's website about their hearings.](#)

Interesting *Bustle* Article About Inclusive Housing and NIMBY-ism. Along with data underlining the negative effects of such zoning, there is a good discussion about why some are opposed to inclusive zoning practices and tips from [Desegregate Connecticut](#) on practical ways to lessen segregation. [According to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](#), the US average home price peaked in Q2 2021 at \$434,200, while a [2021 report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) estimated that full-time workers must earn at least \$20.40



per hour to rent a one-bedroom home - almost three times the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Positively, President Joe Biden's [Build Back Better Plan](#) includes over \$300 billion to reduce and eliminate exclusionary zoning regulations. [Read the October 27, 2021 *Bustle* article.](#)



2021 Progress Report Released on *The Impact of COVID-19 on People with Disabilities*. The [National Council on Disability](#) (NCD) has released its [2021 Progress Report](#) developed with the [Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund](#) and the [Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#). [Download here](#). It found that COVID-19 severely affected certain disabled populations: (1) Many people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and medically fragile and technology dependent individuals could not get COVID-19 treatment when hospital beds, supplies, and personnel were scarce; were denied personal ventilator devices and sometimes were denied the assistance of support persons in a hospital. (2) The informal/formal Crisis Standards of Care of healthcare resources in surges denied

people with certain disabilities care; there were limited opportunities to leave congregate settings for community-based settings because of the continuing weak, insufficient Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services; (3) The pre-pandemic shortage of direct care workers rose, leaving people with disabilities and their caregivers without aid and risking institutionalization. (4) People with disabilities and chronic conditions at high risk of infection were not recognized as a priority population by many states when vaccines were emergency authorized. (5) Students with disabilities could not get in-person special education services and supports, and were not priority when schools resumed. (6) Communication by Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, and Blind persons was poor with masks, making lip-reading impossible and sign language harder. (7) Those who had mental health disabilities worsened by the preexisting shortage of community treatment, effective support, and suicide prevention support. Click [here](#) to read the recommendations.

First National Study of State Laws Finds Wide Criminalization of Sheltering, Camping, and Other Means of Homeless Survival.

The National Homelessness Law Center (NHLC)'s first national study on state laws criminalizing homelessness, [Housing Not Handcuffs 2021: State Law Supplement](#), found that states are increasingly targeting homeless people with criminal penalties and incarceration for public sleeping, camping, and asking for charity. Main findings are: (1) 48 states have at least one law restricting behaviors and/or conduct of people experiencing homelessness; (2) 24 have laws restricting loitering, loafing, and vagrancy in some public places; (3) 4 have laws restricting lodging, living, or sleeping in vehicles; (4) 16 have laws restricting loitering, loafing, and vagrancy state-wide; and (5) 15 have laws restricting camping in particular public places. This report supplements the NHLC's [Housing Not Handcuffs 2019](#) report on municipal level laws criminalizing homelessness in 187 cities. Relevantly, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals [found it unconstitutional](#) to punish a person experiencing homelessness for sleeping outside, without adequate alternatives. Since no state provides adequate alternatives, more of these laws probably will face intense judicial scrutiny. While many of these laws date back to Jim Crow Black codes, the report also found that state governments are increasingly forcing municipalities to enforce these unconstitutional statutes. For



example, Texas recently passed a [law](#) that would withdraw state funding and support from any local entity that “prohibits or discourages enforcement of any public camping ban.” Such criminalization worsens a person’s homelessness, often by creating additional barriers to housing and employment. [Read the December 1, 2021 NHLC release](#).



Housing Activists, Officials, and Researchers - including in Baltimore - are Using New Tools to Empower Tenants, Spotlight

Negligent Property Owners and Curb Evictions. A vacant property sign posted on the front door of a boarded-up row house in Baltimore's Upton neighborhood includes a QR code in the bottom right corner leads to much more information about this building. Scanning the pattern with a smartphone camera directs to a [city web page](#) linking to databases on property ownership, building permits, pending court cases, etc. While the info is all publicly available, it can be difficult to find it in the various city and state data portals so the [QR code signs](#) are being installed by the city on its 17,000-plus properties with vacant building notices. The project began [as an artistic collaboration](#) in 2013 when [Baltimore housing activist Carol Ott](#) and a troupe of street artists began [Wall Hunters](#), painting murals on vacant buildings that were accompanied by QR codes that led users to information about the building's owner on the blog [Baltimore Slumlord Watch](#). Now, under the city's Department of Housing and Urban Development, the QR-code link helps neighbors learn who owns the blights on their block, review work in progress, and potentially communicate the property owners themselves.

HHS and HUD Announce Expanded Partnership, New Housing, and Services Resource Center. The [US Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS) and the [US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) expanded [partnership](#)



**Housing and Services
Resource Center**

will improve access to affordable, accessible housing and critical services for community living. The new national Housing and Services Resource Center (HSRC). Within HHS, this partnership is led by the [Administration for Community Living](#). It includes the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#), the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#), and the [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation](#).

The [Housing and Services Resource Center](#) will provide resources, program guidance, training, and technical assistance. It should facilitate state and local partnerships between housing and service systems. This unites for the first time various federal resources and guidance on housing and services supporting community living, including Medicaid-funded home and community-based services, behavioral health supports, vouchers, and other housing programs. The HSRC website includes info about the networks, examples of successful partnerships and strategies, webinars, technical assistance resources, how to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, and a learning collaborative. [Read the December 8, 2021 HUD press release.](#)



Black real estate agent and his Black clients file lawsuit after being handcuffed by police during home showing. A Black father, his son, and their Black real estate agent have filed a federal lawsuit against the city of Wyoming, Michigan, the Wyoming police chief, and six police officers after they were ordered by police officers out of the home they were touring and handcuffed. The real estate agent, Eric Brown, was showing a home to his client, Roy Thorne, and his 15-year-old son, Samuel, on August 1, when police, responding to a neighbor's call, showed up at the house, ordered those [inside to leave with](#)

[their hands in the air and handcuffed them](#). They were all released soon after. [A Black realtor was showing a home to a Black father and son. They were handcuffed by Michigan police](#) The lawsuit, filed October 1st in US District Court for the Western District of Michigan, seeks unspecified damages on five counts, claiming the officers violated the plaintiffs' civil rights, including unlawful detainment, excessive force, and equal protection. Other counts include assault and battery, false imprisonment and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Wyoming, the six officers involved, and the police chief are all named as defendants. [Read the October 8, 2021 CNN article.](#)

The Legacy Of Redlining On Black Maternal Health. [Redlining](#) first targeted neighborhoods with immigrants and people of color. These were labeled “red” and designated “hazardous” by the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation, and were used by banks, realtors, and public officials to deny loans and investments there. Although illegal, redlining policies [continue to affect these communities today](#), especially Blacks living [in inner-city communities](#). This disinvestment has led to [housing instability and poor health rates](#) in these communities, which led to persistent [adverse effects on Black maternal health and birthing outcomes](#). Neighborhoods that were once redlined [still show increased risk of preterm birth rates in Black mothers](#). Historic and continued housing instability there have been linked to maternal health complications, including hypertension and other neonatal risks. The [JAMA Open Network found](#) that preterm births in once redlined zip codes occurred 1.5 times greater than elsewhere. The legacy of redlining has contributed to racial health inequality and increased risk of preterm births and other complications for Black mothers. Redlining’s contribution to housing instability has also led to overrepresentation of Black people among the homeless population, thus significantly increasing the risks for [Black maternal health and birthing outcomes](#). [The attendant tensions may lead to high-stress environments that also increases the chances of a premature birth, among other negative effects](#). [Premature births are associated with numerous negative health conditions](#) including both short- and long-term cardiovascular issues and social and behavioral issues. Because the US healthcare system [continues to not serve Black communities](#) well, health inequities persist over time. Source: https://ncrc.org/the-legacy-of-redlining-on-black-maternal-health/?mc_cid=398f0c9d11&mc_eid=27528965c8.

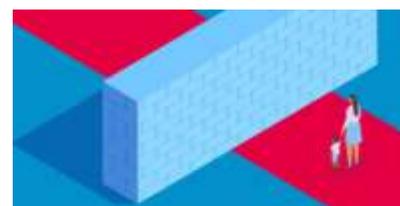


SPOTLIGHT: SNO MASS



The statewide voluntary Supporting Neighborhood Opportunity in Massachusetts (SNO Mass) housing mobility program supports Housing Choice Voucher families with school-aged children making moves to communities with high quality schools, open space, and healthy, safe environments. [SNO Mass](#), funded and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, provides various supports to help families to move to higher opportunity areas with high-performing schools, low poverty rates, and positive environments. Mobility Works helped to begin the mobility program in 2019. [Click](#) to view the SNO Mass brochure. According to the Massachusetts [City of Worcester's Recap Solutions](#), to be eligible for the program a household must: (1) be a RCAP Solutions Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher participant in good standing; (2) have at least one child in the household under the age of 18; and (3) currently live in a non-SNO Mass Opportunity Area. The program then provides dedicated counselors that provide assistance regarding the family’s particular needs and preferences, pre-move counseling connecting to available landlords, moving financial assistance, security deposits, other fees, help with housing search, transportation to view apartments, information on schools and assistance with transfers, assistance in locating resources and services in the new community, post-move counseling to support the household in its new neighborhood; and potentially higher voucher value to pay any higher rent. Property Owners who rent a unit in [RCAP Solutions’ designated SNO Mass Opportunity Areas](#) are eligible for various supports and incentives.

The national Century Foundation recently released its [report](#) on one family's positive SNO Mass involvement, *The Walls of Exclusion in Massachusetts: How Three Mothers Had to*



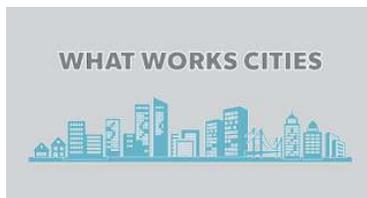
Overcome Discriminatory Zoning Laws to Improve the Lives of Their Children (2021), by **Richard D. Kahlenberg**. [Click here](#) to see Mobility Works and the Poverty & Race Research Action Council's listing of all current mobility programs in the US. <https://tcf.org/content/report/walls-exclusion-massachusetts-three-mothers-overcome-discriminatory-zoning-laws-improve-lives-children/>; <http://www.rcapsolutions.org/sno-mass/>; <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/supporting-neighborhood-opportunity-in-massachusetts-sno-mass-program>.



MARYLAND AREA NEWS

The Baltimore-Based Teachers Democracy Project (TDP) Has Some Great Resources. Their "[Segregation Curriculum](#)" is excellent, focusing on Baltimore. It includes the 1910 segregation law, the video *Bigotry and Blockbusting in Baltimore* with Antero Pietila, links, and more. The TDP also has curricula on Houses & Money, Urban Planning, Adventures in Local History, etc. You can join them every Monday [on Facebook](#) at 5:00 for live podcasts, or join every Thursday at 5:00 for Zoom discussions on parenting, schooling, and living during COVID-19. This is an open space to vent, support and strategize. Join live in the chat or hop on the Thursday show by reaching out to tyrone@tdpbaltimore.org or rebecca@tdpbaltimore.org. In the [Resources](#) area on Google Docs, there are shorts and presentations on empathy, mental health, self care, virtual wellness, parent resources, etc.

Maryland Celebrates the 100th Affordable Housing Community Financed Through the State's Rental Housing Works Program. At the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition's annual meeting, a [proclamation from Governor Larry Hogan](#) was presented to the Coalition, which worked with MDHCD to start the Rental Housing Works program in 2012. Under the program, developers make maximum use of previously unused, and often returned, federal bond resources for affordable rental housing. Designed to support ready projects, the low-interest are paired with the federal bond funds to finance the preservation and modernization of the housing. The 100 affordable housing communities financed through Rental Housing Works has leveraged over \$2 billion in additional public, private, and nonprofit investment. Affordable housing production in Maryland has significantly increased since 2015, as MDHCD has financed the construction and preservation of over 22,000 units since then. For more info about the other rental housing finance programs: <https://dhcd.maryland.gov>. [Read the October 9, 2021 MDHCD article](#).



Bloomberg Philanthropies Recognizes Baltimore for Using Data to Improve the City. Baltimore is one of the first 50 cities to have achieved "What Works Cities Certification" in "recognition of its use of data to guide decision-making and improve residents' lives." What Works Cities Certification - purportedly the "national standard of excellence in data-driven city governance" - assesses how city leaders use data and evidence in decision-making. This national initiative by Bloomberg Philanthropies to help cities use data and evidence more effectively honored [16 of the 50 cities](#) earlier in 2021. The Certification assesses [data-driven decision-making practices](#) such as whether they use data to set goals and track progress, allocate funding, evaluate program effectiveness, achieve desired outcomes from vendor contracts, and whether cities are publicly and transparently communicating about data and

evidence. It was found that in the last year Baltimore has shown significant progress on these data practices, such as (1) the Mayor's [Action Plan](#), which lists the goals the administration is committed to making significant progress on and accomplishing; (2) [Open Baltimore](#), the City's public data portal, which provides data, downloadable files, COVID-19 dashboards, Minority- and Women-Owned Business Finders, and data about the city budget and spending; and (3) the Department of Housing and Community Development's [CoDe map](#), with citywide housing data used in community development and strategic planning, to track rent support, and building code enforcement. This map has been used by 120,000 and by the city's legal aid effort to fight COVID-19 evictions. The Certification program began in 2017, with cities over 30,000 population eligible to participate. Cities are [awarded](#) Silver, Gold, or Platinum Certification "depending on their level of data sophistication." See the 50 cities [here](#). The program was developed by Results for America with the [What Works Cities Certification Standard Committee](#), and supported by Harvard's Kennedy School, Johns Hopkins University, and the Behavioral Insights Team. Over 200 cities have completed a [Certification assessment](#). Source: Office of the Mayor press release, December 15, 2021.



MORTGAGE LENDING NEWS

USDOJ to Target Redlining by Banks; Settles Case Against Trustmark Bank. The U. S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) is leading a multi-government effort to investigate and prosecute redlining, the illegal practice of banks discriminating against racial minorities or certain neighborhoods. The USDOJ is currently investigating several redlining cases, which involves US attorneys' offices with local experience and state attorneys general. Much effort will focus on algorithmic redlining. This effort reverses that of the previous administration which brought its first redlining case in 2018, and reversed the Civil Rights Division's investigatory expansion. As part of this, the USDOJ, CFPB, and OCC reached a Settlement with Trustmark National Bank satisfying allegations that the bank redlined against some Memphis neighborhoods. Trustmark, operating mostly in the South, will be required to open a mortgage office in a majority-Black and Hispanic neighborhood within the Memphis metro, contribute \$3.85 million to a fund to create loan subsidies for borrowers in discriminated neighborhoods, make a civil \$4 million payment to the OCC, and make a civil \$1 million payment to the CFPB. <https://apnews.com/article/business-race-and-ethnicity-racial-injustice-tennessee-memphis-6008ad53f784c42ab2f4dc627e0af9c5>. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/redlining-justice-lending-garland-crackdown/2021/10/22/33c527c0-3353-11ec-a1e5-07223c50280a_story.html.

HUD & DOJ ENFORCEMENT

HUD Reaches Settlement with Arizona Housing Providers Resolving Claims of National Origin Discrimination When They Failed to Provide Adequate Language Services for a Resident with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The Conciliation Agreement/Voluntary Compliance Agreement with MGM Investment Company, the owner of Roosevelt Plaza Apartments in Phoenix, Arizona, resolves allegations that they violated the Fair Housing Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Roosevelt Plaza Apartments receives HUD funding. [Read the Agreement](#).

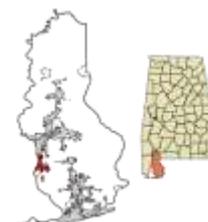
The case began when a woman from Chad with LEP filed a complaint alleging that the Apartments did



not provide her with the language services she needed to make informed decisions about housing, and that respondents insisted that she sign English-language housing documents though she cannot adequately speak or read English. Under the Agreement, the Company will pay the woman \$1,000 and each household with limited English proficiency \$500, up to \$34,000; provide interpretation services; establish signage in English, Somali, Arabic, Kinyarwanda, Tigrinya, and Spanish that free interpretation services are available; implement a language access plan with translated documents; and have employees attend fair housing training. [Read the October 25, 2021 HUD release.](#)

Fairhope, Alabama Housing Providers Accused of Age, Disability, and Familial Status Discrimination Agree to Pay \$20,000 to Resolve HUD Complaint.

The Conciliation Agreement/Voluntary Compliance Agreement with Hollyhand Companies, and the Village at Meadowview, LTD, the owners of a HUD-subsidized community in Fairhope, Alabama resolves allegations based on a HUD investigation into whether the owners' policy prohibiting visitors under the age of 12 due to COVID-19 was discriminatory. [Read the Agreement.](#) The case started when a resident filed a complaint alleging that the owners discriminated against her. The resident, who had been providing childcare for her grandchildren, was allegedly told that she could no longer do so because it violated the owners' policy, instituted due to COVID-19, forbidding visitors to the property under 12. HUD also did a compliance review to assess whether the owners had adopted an impermissible age distinction in their HUD-assisted programs or activities. Under the Agreement, the owners will pay the resident \$20,000 and rescind their policy prohibiting visitors to the property who are under 12, provide residents with notice of the rescission, remove playground signage targeting anyone on the basis of age, implement revised visitation policies in all of their federally-funded properties, implement a non-discrimination policy throughout their federally-funded properties, and have annual training for their management staff on how to comply with the Fair Housing Act, Section 504, and the Age Discrimination Act. [Read the October 8, 2021 HUD release.](#)



The US Department of Justice (USDOJ) Obtains \$4.5 Million Settlement from a New Jersey Landlord to Resolve Claims of Sexual Harassment of Tenants.

Joseph Centanni, a landlord who has owned hundreds of rental units in and around Elizabeth, has agreed to pay \$4.5 million in monetary damages and a civil penalty to resolve a Fair Housing Act lawsuit concerning his sexual harassment of tenants and housing applicants for over 15 years. This settlement, which still must be approved by the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, is the largest monetary settlement USDOJ has obtained in a case alleging sexual harassment in housing. According to the complaint, Centanni demanded sexual favors, like oral sex, to get or keep housing; offered housing benefits like reduced rent in exchange for sexual favors; touched tenants and applicants in a way that was sexual and unwelcome, and made unwelcome sexual comments and advances to tenants and applicants. He also allegedly started or threatened to initiate eviction actions against tenants who objected to or refused his sexual advances. Centanni participated in the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) and received approximately \$102,000 each month in payments. Under the decree, he will pay \$4,392,950 in monetary damages to tenants and prospective tenants harmed by his harassment. Centanni has sold all of his residential rental properties. He is permanently forbidden from owning and managing residential rental properties, will be required to dismiss housing court judgments obtained in proceedings deemed to be retaliatory, help repair the credit of any affected tenants, and pay a \$107,050 civil penalty, the maximum allowed under the FHA. [Read the December 14, 2021 USDOJ release.](#)



USDOJ Finds State of Iowa Unnecessarily Segregates People with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities in State Resource Centers. The investigation about whether the State of Iowa subjects residents of two state-run institutions for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities to unnecessary institutionalization in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act [determined](#) that there is reasonable cause to believe Iowa fails to provide services to residents, or those at serious risk of institutionalization, in the most integrated setting for their needs. Iowa's care system for people with IDD heavily relies on institutions. Critical services and support that would allow Center residents to live in their own homes and communities, such as behavioral, crisis and physical health supports, are often unavailable. Iowa also fails to provide Center residents and their guardians sufficient info about community options. Resultantly, many Resource Center residents who could live in community are segregated in institutions. [Read the December 8, 2021 USDOJ release.](#)

USDOJ Resolves Housing Discrimination Lawsuit Against the Town of Wolcott, Connecticut for Refusing to Allow a Group Home for Adults with Disabilities in a Residential Neighborhood.

The settlement, which still must be approved by the U.S. District Court, resolves a USDOJ [lawsuit](#) and one by the housing provider and property owner of the proposed home, SELF Inc. and L&R Realty Inc. The lawsuit began with a complaint that the organizations filed with HUD which referred it to USDOJ. They wanted to open a residence for 13 adults with mental health disabilities, but the Town's zoning regulations permitted the operation of community residences with disabilities if certain conditions were met. The complaint also alleged that, after learning about the proposed home, the Town amended its zoning regulations to prohibit any community residence for adults with disabilities. Under the settlement, the Town will allow the group home; will amend its zoning regulations to comply with federal anti-discrimination laws, including permitting group homes for persons with disabilities in residential districts with the same size limitations applied to families of similar size; implement a reasonable accommodation policy; and pay \$350,000 in damages to SELF and L&R Realty and a \$10,000 civil penalty. The Town also agreed to take actions against housing discrimination, such as training Town officials and employees about obligations under federal law, designating a fair housing compliance officer, and reporting to the USDOJ. [Read the December 6, 2021 USDOJ release.](#)



CALENDAR

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) will hold its [Biennial Civil Rights & Fair Housing Gala Celebration](#) on April 30, 2022. With the themes of "Her Story: Celebrating 100 Years of the Women's Right to Vote & Promoting Civil Rights: 50 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act," it will be on Saturday, April 30, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the

Maryland Live! Hotel Ballroom, 7002 Arundel Mills Circle #7777, Hanover, Maryland 21076. The keynote speaker for the evening is civil rights leader and former Chairperson of the US Civil Rights Commission Dr. Mary Frances Berry. During the program, the work and lifetime achievements of 6 trailblazing Maryland women will be honored. Invitation and sponsorship opportunities for the event will be released. <https://mccr.maryland.gov/Pages/Gala2022.aspx>.

[Register](#) for NLIHC Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2022 on March 22-23, 2022. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)'s Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2022: Achieving Housing Justice will be held on March 22-23, 2022, 12:30-5:30 p.m. on March 22 and 1:00-5:30 p.m. on March 23.



National Low Income Housing Coalition

The forum will feature keynote speakers and panels on: Racial Equity and Housing Justice with LaToya Ruby Frazier; the HoUSed Campaign for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing; Capitol Hill Insiders Panel; Ending Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions; Renter Protections; Expanding the Multi-Sector Affordable Housing Movement; Best Practices in Organizing; and Discussions with Members of Congress and Administration Officials. The forum will have various interactive sessions with NLIHC experts on Non-partisan Voter and Candidate Engagement; Disaster Housing Recovery; Effective Media/Social Media Strategies-Practices; and Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.



DESEGREGATE CONNECTICUT

FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

[Desegregate Connecticut](#) has Great Information on Fair Housing Advocacy, Greater Equity, Inclusive Prosperity, a Cleaner Environment, etc. There are good informative discussions of the history and costs of segregation, the reasons why zoning needs to be reformed, activism and zoning, economics and zoning, and others.

The **[Fair Housing Education Consortium](#) has Interesting Resources.** Started by the Chicago-based **[Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing](#)** (LCBH), it includes a **[Fair Housing Webinar Series](#)** produced by the LCBH and the Illinois Department of Human Rights. The Consortium includes **[Access Living](#)**, the **[Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#)**, and the **[John Marshall Fair Housing Legal Support Center](#)**.



Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing



"Bloomberg Equality" Contains Interesting News About Equality and Corporations. With its mission of "the latest on how companies and institutions are confronting gender, race and class," the section of the bloomberg.com website does have some informative news articles. Go to **<https://www.bloomberg.com/equality/society>**. Their **[CityLab](#)** section also has studies, analysis, etc.

Interested In Fair Housing? Community Development? Insurance? Foreclosure Prevention? Check Out the [GBCHRB's YouTube Channel](#)!

You can watch interviews about insurance, discrimination, affordable housing, Fair Housing laws, disability issues, mortgage lending, and related issues. Our radio shows: **<http://www.gbchrb.org/2rad9899.htm>**.



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What Do You Think of This Newsletter? Is it good? Bad? How can we improve it? What issues should we cover more? Send comments to **<mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>**.



REST IN PEACE

Justin M. Johnson, Judge and Advocate, 88. Johnson founded a private practice, taught at Duquesne University Law School, and served as the second Black judge appointed to Pennsylvania's Superior Court from 1980-1995. In 1993, he was appointed to a concurrent, two-year term on the new Court of Judicial Discipline. He was among the founders of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA)'s Minority Bar Committee, which was established to secure full and equal participation of minorities in the PBA and the legal and judicial systems. Johnson received the 2002 A. Leon Higginbotham Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of a lawyer or judge who has demonstrated dedication to the legal profession and the minority community through civil, community, or legal service. [Read the November 2, 2021 PBA article.](#)

Robert Lynn, Civil Rights Attorney and Organizer, 82. Lynn forged ties between minorities, women, and LGBTQ community. In 1975, he was founding president of the San Diego Democrats for Equality, an influential LGBTQ organization formed after California decriminalized same-sex relationships. In 1979, he began the San Diego Equality Business Association to support LGBTQ businesses. Lynn also practiced civil rights law, was president of the San Diego chapter of the ACLU during the 1980s, when the organization was mostly volunteer lawyers working pro bono. He also was part of a legal team who brought the *Kolender v. Lawson* case (1982) before the US Supreme Court challenging the ability of police to demand identification and info from people in public spaces. [Read the September 22, 2021 San Diego Union-Tribune article.](#)



Shirley McBay, Mathematician and Advocate, 86. McBay was a pioneering mathematician who was the first Black student to receive a doctorate from the University of Georgia. [Spelman College eulogized McBay](#): "Dr. McBay was a highly respected educator, department chair, and pioneer of the mathematics department at [Spelman](#) College. A strong advocate for the advancement of women in education, she was also a director at the National Science Foundation, dean at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and founder of the Quality Education for Minorities Network," which assists minorities in their education in STEM-related fields and has enabled many minority students to pursue advanced degrees. [Read the December 17, 2021 Newsone article.](#)

The Rev. C. Herbert Oliver, Civil Rights Activist, 96. Oliver documented police brutality against African Americans in Alabama in the early 1960s and later fought for public school reform in New York City, has died. From 1960 to 1965, he was the executive secretary of the Inter-Citizens Committee in Birmingham and worked with other clergy to fight discriminatory policing led by Public Safety Commissioner T. Eugene "Bull" Connor. The committee documented more than 100 cases of alleged brutality and civil rights violations by Birmingham police. Oliver later was pastor of the Westminster Bethany Presbyterian Church in New York from 1967 to 1992. There he led a new local school board in Brooklyn in the predominantly Black area Ocean Hill-Brownsville from 1967-1970. [Read the December 11, 2021 Philadelphia Tribune article.](#)

