

September 28, 2016

To: All Neighbors & Lake County Residents

Re: Help plan your community

I attended a meeting at Lakeland Community College on September 22nd. It was sponsored by the Lake County Commissioners' Lake County Office of Planning and Community Development (LCPCD), Fair Housing Resource Center, Inc. (FHRC) and the Lake Metropolitan Housing Authority. These groups are funded through the Federal government's Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) through Community Development Block Grants and the HOME Program, and must complete the Assessment of Fair Housing to receive those funds.

The mission of the FHRC is to ensure compliance with the Federal government's Fair Housing Act enacted in 1968. This Act, and subsequent laws reaffirming its principles, not only prohibits discrimination in housing related activities and transactions, but also imposed a duty to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH).

The CDBG Program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to provide decent affordable housing, services, create jobs and economic opportunities for low and moderate-income persons and the HOME Program's purpose is to create and or preserve affordable housing units for households at or below 80% area median income.

Ms. Patricia A. Kidd, Esq., Executive Director of the FHRC, and Ms. Marian Norman, Community Development Program Manager, LCPCD, are requesting input from Lake County residents as one information source to prepare the AFH and help decide the future development of Lake County. As an interested citizen, my role is to simply report to Lake County residents what I have learned about the process, and provide them with a means to express their viewpoint.

The Department of HUD's Community Planning & Development (CPD) Division provided Lake County with the following awards for Fiscal years 2015 and 2016 based on a proportion formula of what Congress allocated: the HOME program received \$347,341 in FY 2015 and \$361,299 in FY 2016 and CDBG received \$1,241,918 in FY 2015 and \$1,241,776 in FY 2016.

In previous years, decisions and processes led to the concentration of a variety of types of low income affordable housing in the City of Painesville. Common names for this housing include: "Section 8", "housing choice vouchers", tax credit, public, subsidized, etc). It is reported that this has resulted in unfair opportunities of education and other important aspects of life for those families in these low income housing developments.

The Lake County population is 93% white. FHRC states that this statistic alone indicates a lack of diversity in our community.

The FHRC's plan is to no longer concentrate affordable housing developments into one area, but to allocate those properties throughout all of Lake County. How that is to be accomplished was not detailed in the meeting.

As previously stated they want your input. You may take an on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AFHCommunity>, or you may complete the attached form. Although the form says that it must be completed by September 15th, they will extend it until October 15th, but no longer than that, since they must submit the results to HUD very soon.

Thank you,

Brian Massie
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