



LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

2007 Fair Housing Annual Report

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Inaugural Outstanding Achievement in Fair Housing Awards

This was the Inaugural year of the Outstanding Achievement in Fair Housing Awards, which recognizes individuals and organizations that have shown exemplary performances in fair housing practices. Nominations were made by the community and an independent committee selected the award recipients.

The Commission presented awards in three (3) categories: individual, business and organization. This year's recipients were: Robert Jefferson – Individual, Greater Lexington Apartment Association – Organization and Heritage and Canterbury Apartments – Business.



Commissioner Gwen Godfrey, Housing Committee Chair, presented Mr. Robert Jefferson with the Outstanding Achievement in Fair Housing Award—Individual

Mr. Robert Jefferson

- He was a member of the Human Rights Commission from 1969—1986 when he left after being elected to the Urban County Council.
- He along with the Human Rights Commission advocated efforts to join HUD's enforcement program, becoming only one of two such local civil rights enforcement agencies in the commonwealth to do so.

- Attendance to many National HUD training programs that included attendance and graduation from the Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.
- Through his work with the Human Rights Commission's housing program, he led the Commission to be awarded the HUD grant to

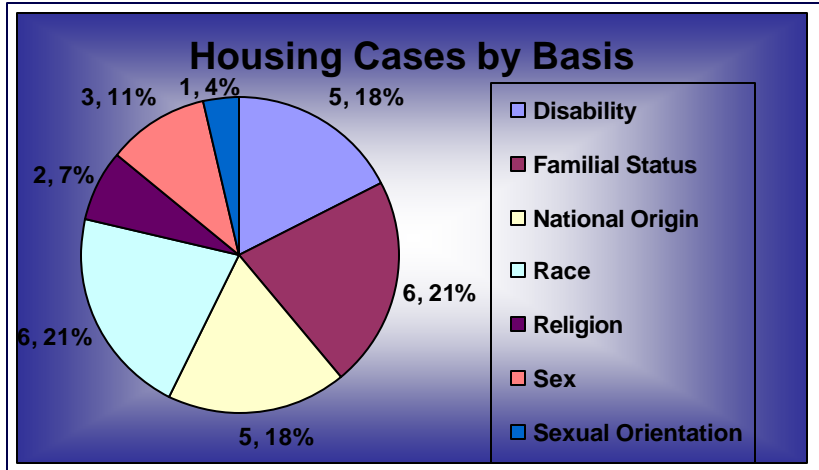
investigate the performance of local banks and mortgage lending institutions and the level of their activity in predominately black neighborhoods under the Community Reinvestment Act.

- As a result of this project and the partnership with two local banks, \$20 million in credit was made available to low-to-moderate income and minority areas of the city over a five (5) year period.
- One lasting tribute to this grant was the creation of the Community Reinvestment Alliance Inc to carry on his work. He has tirelessly worked for this organization that even today continues to assist

Housing Compliance for Fiscal Year 2007

In fiscal year 2007, there were twenty-two(2) new housing complaints filed. The complaints' basis included disability, familial status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. While race is still one of the most "popular" basis of complaints filed, more cases are being filed under other protected classes such as familial status, national origin, religion and sex are on the rise. Last fiscal year, race accounted for almost half of the complaints filed. This fiscal year, approximately one third (1/3) of the complaints filed had a basis of race.

Thirteen (13) housing cases were closed during fiscal year 2007. Five (5) cases were closed with a No Cause Determination., eight (8) were closed as settlements, with monetary benefits totaling \$5,949. Two (2) of the eight (8) cases closed with a settlement reached their agreement at mediation prior to a full investigation. The Commission began it's mediation program in FY2004. Since it's conception, thirteen (13) cases have successfully reached an agreement at mediation with benefits totaling \$52,593.



Meet the Housing Committee



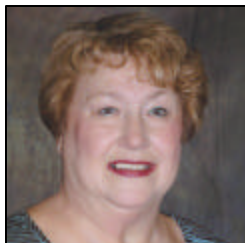
Gwen Godfrey
Chair



Andrea Coleman



Adela DeLeon



Faye Liebermann



Biby Tinajero



Melanie Tyner-Wilson

Fair Housing Award *Continued from pg. 1*

low to moderate income resident work toward the goal of homeownership.

Greater Lexington Apartment Association

- They provide training for owners, managers and staff of multi-family housing in Lexington and the surrounding areas of Kentucky on fair housing issues.
- They advocate safe and affordable housing for all persons regardless of their race, creed, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or handicap.
- They foster good relationships with officials at all levels of government in matters affecting the rental housing industry.
- They provide arenas for networking within the membership and other related organizations to increase enthusiasm and involvement.
- They have encouraged open communication with the Human Rights Commission to encourage education.
- For many years they have been co-sponsors of the LFUCHRC Fair Housing Luncheon, co-sponsors of the Harrison Elementary School on the Martin Luther King Day t-shirt painting contest, participated with the Human Rights Commission and the Lexington Fair Housing Council in their annual trade show and their continual support for Equal Housing Opportunity by providing materials to their residents.



Greater Lexington Apartment Association representatives Lisa Figlestahler, Marye Thompson, Brenda Wells and Dottie Stinnett, recipients of the Outstanding Achievement in Fair Housing—Organization, Commissioner Gwen Godfrey and Commissioner Andrea Coleman

Heritage and Canterbury Apartments

- They strive for having diverse members of their apartment community and currently have residents from Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Bosnia, Russia, the Ivory Coast, South Af-

rica, and India. There are also residents from Asian, Hispanic and American Indian descent.

- The staff frequently attend fair housing seminars on a regular basis
- They are members of the Lexington Apartment Association as well as the National Apartment Association
- They are continually educating themselves on housing laws including those laws pertaining to the ever increasing Hispanic population
- They are active members in the Annual Fair Housing T-shirt contest with Harrison Elementary.

• Active members of the community by participating in food drives, coat drives, flip flops for the hope center, blood drives, Red and Blue

Hero Day, school drives for Arlington Elementary and adopt a family for Christmas. As a plus, the staff has actively gotten the residents involved in these events as well. Their involvement thus furthering the impact and success of the programs.

- One of the initiatives they have created to overcome language barriers is a picture board. On this board there are pictures of everything in an apartment, so that when residents need to communicate something and cannot do it in words they can point to the board and help the staff help them.

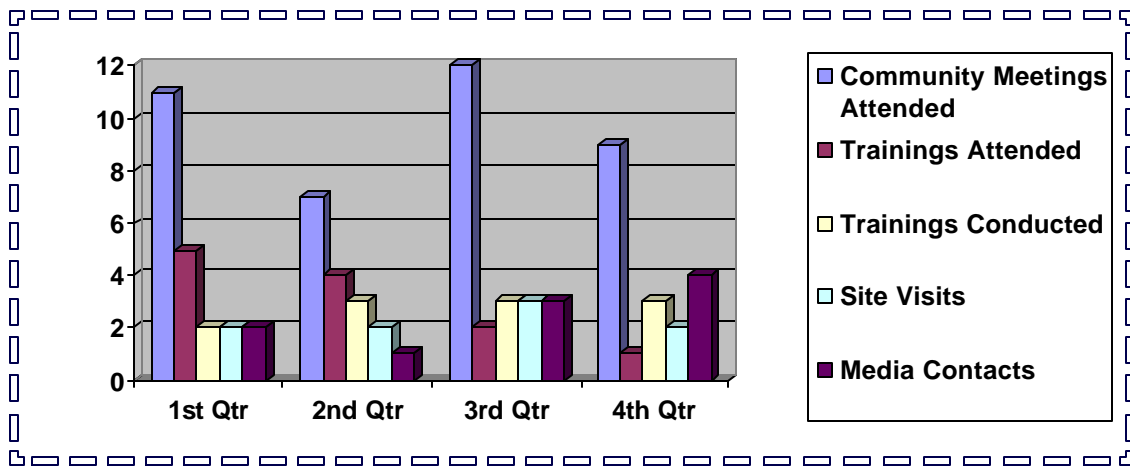


Heritage and Canterbury Apartments representatives Bobbie Browning and Nancy Smith, recipients of the Outstanding Achievement in Fair Housing Award—Business, and Commissioner Andrea Coleman

Community Relations for Fiscal Year 2007

The Commission continued its Fair Housing and Education Outreach during fiscal year 2007 with a focus on predatory lending and disability issue. The Executive Director, William Wharton, serves on the state-wide Kentucky Predatory Lending Prevention Committee and Investigator Tiffany Tatum serves on the local anti-predatory lending work group. The groups are active in promoting an educational campaign to combat predatory lending and providing needed services to victims via an anti-predatory lending hotline that is maintained by the Kentucky Housing Corporation that convened the work groups.

In addition to the Commission web site, which includes information on housing discrimination, links to housing resources, including a section on Adult and Tenant Services, the Commission also published its Fall *On Fair Ground* Newsletter and continues to update brochures. Brochures are currently undergoing translation to Spanish for our communities growing Hispanic population.



National Fair Housing Training Academy

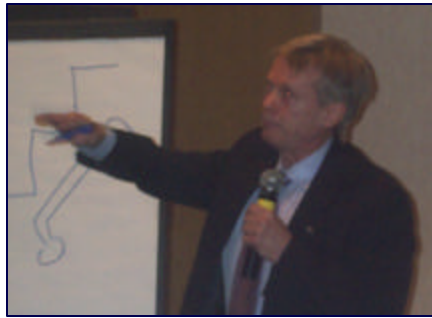
During fiscal year 2007, Senior Officer Manager Tami Reed, Supervising Investigator Raymond Sexton and Executive Director William Wharton completed the initial five (5) week course sponsored by the National Fair Housing Academy. Investigator Tiffany Tatum began her training at the Academy and will complete her initial five (5) weeks during FY2008 or FY2009. The program is a 5-week certification program designed to provide fair housing enforcement staff with knowledge and skills to conduct efficient and timely investigations throughout the country. The National Fair Housing Training Academy (NFHTA) is the educational arm of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO).



Executive Director William Wharton, Senior Office Manager Tami Reed and Supervising Investigator Raymond Sexton display their Certificates of Completion from the National Fair Housing Training Academy

Fair Housing Luncheon

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission held its Twelfth Annual Fair Housing Luncheon on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington. Over 200 joined the Commission to celebrate April as Fair Housing Month and to hear guest speaker Dr. Robert Ardinger, President of Ardinger Consultants and Associates.



Guest Speaker Dr. Bob Ardinger entertained and informed the 200 attendees at the 12th Annual Fair Housing Luncheon

The luncheon was preceded by a Fair Housing and Disability Workshop titled “*Housing For All, Making Lexington An Inclusive Community*”. Approximately 50 people attended the workshop which examined how the fair housing laws can be used to overcome barriers to housing for persons with disabilities and panel presentation and discussion on local housing resources for persons with disabilities.

Attendees of the luncheon were addressed by Commission Chair Rabbi Marc Kline, HRC Housing Committee Chair Gwen Godfrey, Vicki Ray, Director of FHEO Program Center, US Department of Housing



Approximately 50 people attended the Fair Housing & Disability Workshop that preceded the Luncheon

and Urban Development (HUD) – Louisville Field Office, Cheryl Lewis, Director, LFUCG Division of Adult Services, Commissioner Andrea Coleman, Commission Vice Chair, and Commission members Faye Liebermann, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Gloria Rie and Biby Tinajero.

Dr. Robert “Bob” Ardinger was the guest speaker for this year’s luncheon and was a huge success. Dr. Ardinger began by discussing the

different definitions for disability and why they were so broad. His speech was littered with personal accounts, including, but definitely not limited to, being a member of the United States Olympic Wheelchair Basketball Team, and his frustration with many tools made for people with disabilities. The audience was very entertained by his discussion of universal design and how it can impact the daily lives of not only people with disabilities but also the rest of the population. He

reiterated to the audience that people with disabilities are everywhere and need to stop being pushed away and made invisible. While progress has been made, there is still a long way to go. Dr. Ardinger’s open and honest approach made him entertaining, approachable and most of all understandable.

For the first year, two (2) elementary schools participated in the Fair Housing Coloring Contest. Third-grade students from Ashland Elementary and Harrison Elementary Schools



Harrison Elementary School Coloring Contest Winners

were presented with awards for their participation in the coloring contest. The coloring contest is a program the Commission began to get housing information to the parents and guardians of the students and to expose students to fair housing and diversity information.



Ashland Elementary School Coloring Contest Winners

20 Agencies participated in the Housing Information Station which gives agencies / organizations the opportunity to share information on the agency / organization with luncheon participants

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