



LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



2004 FAIR HOUSING ANNUAL REPORT

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**EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY**



A MESSAGE FROM HOUSING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS CLEO PRICE AND ANGELA SLATON

We are pleased to present the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission's FY 2004 Fair Housing Annual Report. This report is solely dedicated to the housing related activities of the commission. This year we are also happy to add a page featuring our 40th Anniversary reception that was held to recognize those community members who founded the commission and were responsible for all of our early efforts beginning in 1963.

In this report you will find an overview of the investigators work for FY 2004 with the information on complaints received by basis, complaints closed and how they were closed, and information on settlements. You will also find information on our outreach and education program. Community relations is a very important aspect of what we do and we are proud to partner with several area organizations, associations, and housing providers to continue to provide information to our community. In addition, we continued our work with the hate and bias initiative and Harrison Elementary this year.

One tradition was a little different this year for the Commission. Instead of continuing with our annual fair housing luncheon, we were honored to host the 2004 Quad State Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Conference and the Civil Rights Luncheon. The Conference attracted approximately 100 attendees from Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee. In this anniversary year of *Brown v. The Board of Education*, we were particularly thrilled to have Joseph A. Delaine, Jr. as our guest speaker for the conference. Mr. DeLaine was a member of the Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission and is the son of Joseph DeLaine, Sr., who organized and led the

(continued on page 2)

HOUSING COMMITTEE



Cleo Price
Co-Chair



Angela Slaton
Co-Chair



Brian Berthiaume



Adela DeLeon



Faye Liebermann



Connie Morton

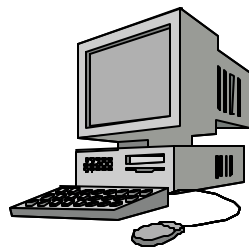
The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission Housing Committee makes fair housing policy for the Commission, subject to approval of the full Commission. The Housing Committee oversees the staff fair housing education and outreach programs and monitors the Commission's compliance fair housing enforcement plan. The Housing Committee also recommends enforcement strategies to the staff and the Commission.

(from page 1)

black community's quest for equality in South Carolina in the 1950s with the filing of *Briggs v. Elliott*. The case that laid the groundwork for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

As commissioners and housing committee chairs, we are proud of the work of the Commission and are continually striving to find resourceful ways to meet the statutory duties of the Commission with continually limited budgets and other resources. We focus on meeting the new challenges ahead.

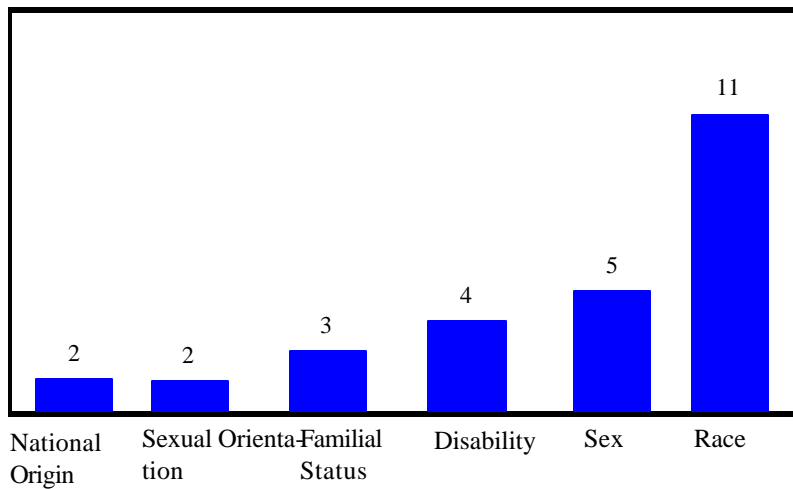
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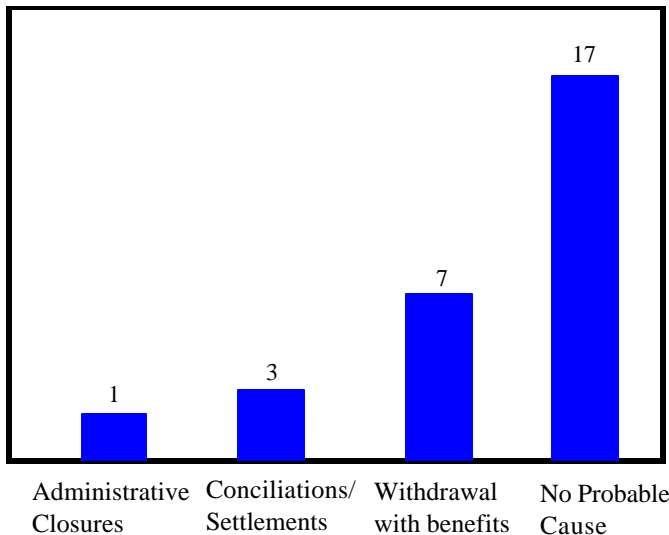
**Log on to the
Commission's
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24 hours-a-day!**

COMPLIANCE FY 2004

HOUSING COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY BASIS



HOUSING COMPLAINTS CLOSED IN FY 2004



Administrative Closure - case is closed for any reason other than a completed investigation.

Withdrawal of Benefits - when both parties enter into a mutually satisfactory agreement in which the Commission is not a party.

Settlements/Conciliations - when both parties enter into a mutually satisfactory agreement in which the Commission is a party.

No Probable Cause - investigation revealed that there was not sufficient evidence to believe that the alleged discrimination occurred.

SETTLEMENTS CAN RANGE FROM MONITORING THE EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY POLICY ENFORCEMENT OF THE HOUSING PROVIDER, TO REQUIRING CHANGES IN THE POLICIES OF THE HOUSING PROVIDERS, AND SETTLEMENTS CAN BE MONETARY. IN FY 2004, THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONETARY SETTLEMENTS WAS \$9,073.00 IN THE 10 FAIR HOUSING SETTLEMENTS MADE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.

2004 QUAD-STATE FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE



HUD Kentucky Office staff (L), HUD Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples(center), and Commission compliance staff (R)

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission hosted the 2004 Quad-State Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Conference in Lexington, KY March 3 – 5, 2004. This year’s conference theme was *Brown v. The Board of Education*: “With All Deliberate Speed...” Commemorating 50 Years of Civil Rights Enforcement.

The Quad-State Conference began after a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) policy conference in 1992, with the original idea of bringing together fair housing practitioners in Tennessee and North Carolina for regional housing training. South Carolina and Kentucky came on board soon after the initial conference.

This year’s conference focused on the 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. The Board of Education* with guest speaker Joseph A. Delaine, Jr. who is a member of the *Brown v. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary Commission. He is the son of Joseph DeLaine, Sr., pastor and president of the local NAACP who organized and led the black community’s quest for equality in Clarendon, SC in the 1950s with the filing of *Briggs v. Elliott*. This case led the groundwork for *Brown v. Board of Education* which was filed four years later.

The life and work of Whitney Young, Jr. was honored with the conference dedicated to him. Mr. Young, a Kentucky native and graduate of Kentucky State University, was the director of the National Urban League from 1961 until his untimely death in 1971. During that time, he was unquestionably one of the “big four” civil rights leaders of the 1960s along with Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, and James Farmer. Mr. Young served on several presidential commissions and received the Medal of Freedom, the country’s highest civilian award, for his efforts to end segregation and discrimination.

Approximately 100 participants from Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Indiana gave updates from each state, received an address from HUD Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples, and attended workshop sessions on topics including issues in police/community relations, housing, employment, and education.

As part of the conference, the LFUC Human Rights Commission hosted the Civil Rights Luncheon featuring Dr. C.B. Akins, Sr. as guest speaker. Over two hundred guests joined conference participants for an uplifting address by Dr. Akins. He spoke of reflecting on *Brown v. The Board of Education* and on the work of civil rights, being resigned in working in the civil rights arena, and the reward of those working in civil rights is to leave a legacy. Dr. Akins reminded the crowd that we all stand on the shoulders of others and build on their labor and we must continue to work to remove the burden of racism for future generations.

In addition, the 2004 Police Community Relations Award recipients, Officers Thomas Coon and Robert Pearl, received recognition during the luncheon for outstanding community service (details on page 4). The Commission announced that in 2005 the award name would change to the Excellence in Public Safety Award to encompass all public safety employees.



To view photographs from the conference, log on to the Commission web site at www.lfuchrc.org.

2004 POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AWARDS



As part of the Human Rights Commission's statutory mission to endeavor to promote positive inter-group relations, the Commission charged its Community Relations Committee to develop and implement programs that promote improved relations between the police and the community they serve. As part of the charge, the Community Relations Committee and Commission staff attended community meetings, interviewed residents, and met with and learned a great deal about law enforcement officers and the environment in which they serve. During this process the Commission and the Committee discovered that there are many law enforcement officers making outstanding contributions on a daily basis to make this community a better place to live.

Based on this finding, the Commission created the Police Community Relations Award program. The program is designed to recognize and honor those police officers that continue to make outstanding contributions in the community. We seek to recognize officers who help the community understand the joint role of promoting public safety, crime prevention, and community involvement. The 2004 award winners were honored at the Commission's civil rights luncheon on Tuesday, March 4, 2004 in Lexington. The Commission announced an expansion of the award program to the Excellence in Public Safety Awards that will expand the nominations accepted from law enforcement only to all outstanding sworn officers in the field of public safety.

Officer Thomas Coon has been with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Division of Police for seven years. He also served with the Winchester Police Department for twenty years. He has been assigned to the Bureau of Traffic for over five years and is a Motorcycle Certified Member of the Selective Enforcement Unit. He also volunteers as a recruit mentor. He has earned six letters of appreciation and one Professional Service Award. Officer Coon is a graduate of Tates Creek High School and attended Eastern Kentucky University. He is married to his wife of twenty-four years and has one son.



(LtoR) John Dobken from Insight Communications, Officer Coon, and Jeff Jones, Chair of the Commission.



(LtoR) John Dobken from Insight Communications, Officer Pearl, and Jeff Jones, Chair of the Commission.

Officer Robert Pearl has been employed with the University of Kentucky Police since December 2002. Prior to working with the University of Kentucky Police, Officer Pearl has served as an officer in Newport, NH and as a park ranger for the state of Kentucky. Throughout his employment with the UK police, he has served in the Bureau of Patrol. Officer Pearl also serves on the Executive Protection Team, which is responsible for the protection of dignitaries that visit campus. Officer Pearl is also actively involved in the Adopt a Cop program where he is assigned to a particular dorm and works with students on campus safety. In addition, Officer Pearl gives his time visiting patients at the University of Kentucky Children's Hospital.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The goal of the Commission's Fair Housing Program is to proactively educate the community about fair housing law and related issues to prevent discrimination and build partnerships in the community. Throughout the year the Commission partners with various housing agencies, housing providers, lenders, businesses, schools, and professional associations. In FY 2004, the Commission collaborations included the Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative, Downtown Lexington Corporation Housing Committee, Lexington Apartment Association, Lexington Bluegrass Association of Realtors, Kentucky Independent Home Ownership Coalition, Realtor Community Housing Foundation, and REACH (Resources, Education and Assistance for Community Housing). In addition, the Commission continued its hate and bias initiative with the 2004 Hate Free Lexington Vigil and the seventh year of the Harrison Elementary Cultural Diversity and Fair Housing Program.

2004 HATE FREE LEXINGTON VIGIL



Commissioner Brian Berthiaume addresses the crowd at the rally.

The Commission partnered with Hate Free Lexington and the National Conference for Community and Justice for a follow-up to the 2002 Hate Free Lexington Rally. The purpose of the 2004 vigil was to encourage the community to pro-actively work against hate and bias in the Lexington community. As part of this initiative, the Hate Free Zone project was unveiled. Hate Free Zone includes a pledge signed by area businesses, organizations, and individuals and a window decal declaring support for a Hate Free Lexington.

HARRISON ELEMENTARY FAIR HOUSING AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PROGRAM

FY 2004 was the seventh year of the Commission's Harrison Elementary Fair Housing and Cultural Diversity Awareness Program. The goal of the program is to expose students to different aspects of the community and to give students and guardians/parents fair housing information. This year the program included activities for Native American awareness and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Lexington Apartment Association partners with the Commission each year for the MLK T-shirt design contest.



Nancy Smith, Lexington Apartment Association, with the T-shirt contest finalists in January 2004.

40TH ANNIVERSARY

In November 2003, the Commission held a reception honoring those individuals who were integral to the beginning of the Commission and its early efforts.

Dr. Sherman Miller was one of the early commissioners in 1964 and served on the commission until 1986. Members of his family are pictured on the right. (LtoR) Dr. Miller's grandson (Freda's son) Dr. Neil Lemer, Dr. Miller's son Joseph Miller, and Dr. Miller's daughters Freda Miller and Samye Miller, Commission Chair.



Pictured to the right are two former commissioners. Former chair Robert Jefferson who served on the commission from 1969 to 1988 and Robert Wimsatt who served on the commission from 1976 to 1986.



Patrick Molloy was one of the first commissioners in 1963 and served as the first treasurer. He is pictured with Chair Samye Miller.



(Right) Robert Miller worked to create the original commission and worked on many issues including school integration and public accommodations. (LtoR) Mr. Miller's daughter, Jennifer Miller; Commission Chair Samye Miller; Commission Vice Chair Jeff Jones (back center); Mr. Miller's son and KY State Treasurer Jonathan Miller; Mr. Miller's brother Jack Miller; and Mr. Miller's granddaughters (Jonathan Miller's daughters) Emily and Abigail (front).



Joe Graves (R) was a member of the joint study committee that recommended the creation of a joint city-county commission in 1966. He was inducted into the 2003 Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Mr. Graves is pictured above speaking with Lexington community member Ron Alpern.



HUD Kentucky Office Director Ben Cook.(R) presented Executive Director William Wharton and Chair Samye Miller with recognition for the 40th Anniversary.



Charles Powell (R) served on the Commission from 1978 to 1989. He is pictured with Commission Vice Chair Jeff Jones.

fair housing law?
advertising?
evictions?
predatory lending?
redlining?



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