



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Midwest Regional Office, Region V  
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building  
77 West Jackson Boulevard – Room 2101  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

November 12, 2015

Lawrence J. Morrissey  
Mayor  
City of Rockford, Illinois  
425 E. State Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockford, IL 61104

Subject: Civil Rights Compliance Review under Title VI  
HUD Case Number: 05-16-R001-6



Dear Mr. Morrissey:

By this letter, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) is notifying the City of Rockford that FHEO will conduct a Title 6 compliance review of the City. We will undertake this review under the authority of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations found at 24 CFR Part 1. In addition to the Title VI Compliance Review, FHEO will also be reviewing the City's obligation to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.

This review is being conducted due to the actions taken by the City Council in regards to proposed New Towne project by the Rockford Housing Authority.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) provides that "...no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance".

The Fair Housing Act not only prohibits discrimination but, in conjunction with other statutes, directs HUD's program participants to take significant actions to overcome historic patterns of segregation, achieve truly balanced and integrated living patterns, promote fair housing choice, and foster inclusive communities that are free from discrimination.

A finding that the City is not in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act or its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing may result in the suspension or termination of federal financial assistance (24 CFR § 1.8.)

Further, if evidence develops that Title VIII of the Fair Housing Act has also been violated due to discriminatory land/use and zoning practices, the evidence will be referred to the Department of Justice pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3610.

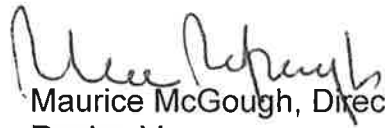
FHEO is obligated to inform you that no one may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or engage in other discriminatory conduct against anyone because he or she has either taken action or participated in an action to secure rights protected by the civil rights laws enforced by this Office. Any individual alleging such harassment or intimidation may file a complaint with FHEO and the Office would investigate such a complaint if the situation warrants.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, upon request, release of this document may be necessary along with related correspondence and records. In the event that such a request is made, we will protect personal information, the release of which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy, to the extent allowed by law.

Please be advised that a data request letter will be sent under separate cover and we will be contacting you to schedule on-site interviews.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Nevels, Chicago FHEO Center Director, at 312-913-8429.

Sincerely,



Maurice McGough, Director  
Region V

Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity