

THE CRC NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

Promoting harmony & respect among a diverse citizenry of our state



South Carolina Human Affairs Commission
www.schac.sc.gov

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50th Anniversary
Celebration of the
Fair Housing Act

FAIR HOUSING
MONTH 2018

50 Years of Fair Housing

Fifty years ago, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Title VIII of the 1968 Act is also known as the Fair Housing Law. The Civil Rights Act of 1968 was a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, expanding the act for equal rights to all citizens. The initial Fair Housing Act prohibited discrimination based upon race, color, religion, and national origin. Later, the Fair Housing Act also protected against discrimination based on sex, disability, familial status.

The enactment of the Fair Housing Act signed by President Johnson was a lengthy process. Due to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, President Johnson utilized the national tragedy to urge the bill's speedy Congressional approval. "Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name had been closely associated with the fair housing legislation" (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2018). President Johnson viewed the Act as a suitable memorial to honor Dr. King's life and desired for the Act to be passed before Dr. King's funeral.



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By April 1969, HUD was ecstatic to celebrate the Act's 1st Anniversary. Within that inaugural year, HUD completed the Title VIII Field Operations Handbook, and instituted an official complaint process. In celebratory fashion, HUD hosted a gala event in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Plaza Hotel. From across the nation, advocates and politicians shared in this marvelous evening, including one of the organizations that started it all, the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. In following years, the tradition of celebrating Fair Housing Month grew larger and larger. Governors began to issue proclamations that designated April as "Fair Housing Month," and schools across the country sponsored poster and essay contests that focused upon fair housing issues. Regional winners from these contests often enjoyed trips to Washington, DC, for events with HUD and their Congressional representatives.

The Greenville County Human Relations Council conducts the Fair Housing and Educational Outreach Initiative Program in which individuals in the protected classes are provided outreach and educational services through a targeted, strategic approach. The Greenville County HRC meaningfully impacts the lives of citizens who were previously unaware of federal programs and laws that protect individuals from civil rights abuses. Providing direct fair housing education, outreach and counseling services directly to underserved populations in the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson combined statistical area (CSA), the Greenville County HRC is committed to helping people by its partnering with the SC Human Affairs Commission and other jurisdictions, developers, and nonprofit agencies. Through the Memorandum of Understanding, the Greenville County HRC and SC Human Affairs Commission works together to establish a common agenda that supports equity, human rights, and diversity within each agency and the community. The benefit of working together includes an increase in effectiveness by sharing knowledge and resources, minimizing duplication efforts, and addressing issues and concerns at a local level.

The Greater Columbia Community Relations Council also has great influence in Fair Housing. James McQuilla is the council's new Director as of 2018. The council will be participating in the Civil Rights: It Still Matters Fair Housing Conference being held in Columbia, South Carolina, on April 28, 2018. This year's conference focuses on the biased discrimination that Hispanics endure. The conference will teach these citizens particular questions to ask, what to be aware of should an individual feel discriminated against, etc. The conference is free and open to the public; however, participants must register at <http://crism2018daytwo.eventbrite.com>.



Promoting harmony & respect among a diverse citizenry of our state Community Relations Councils

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Current CRCs:
Columbia, West Columbia, Lee, Allendale, Hampton, Beaufort, Jasper, Berkeley, Myrtle Beach, Georgetown, Lancaster, Rock Hill, Greenwood, Greenville, Anderson, Laurens, McCormick, Aiken

National Fair Housing Month



CIVIL RIGHTS



it still matters



Fair Housing Conference

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

April 28, 2018

Centro Cristiano-Columbia 2632 Decker Blvd.

Columbia, SC

Free and open to the public.

Registered participants will receive lunch and door prizes.

Registration: <https://crism2018daytwo.eventbrite.com>

Annual Event Calendar for COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

January

MLK/Interfaith Awareness

February

African American History

March

Women's History/End Racism Day

April

Fair Housing

May

Law Enforcement/
Community Relations

June

Disaster Preparedness/Emanuel 9
Remembrance Day, Peace & Reconciliation

July

Employment Discrimination/
Economic Opportunity

August

Youth Project/Back to School

September

Hispanic Heritage/
Cultural Diversity

October

Disability Employment Awareness

November

American Indian Heritage/
Veterans' Appreciation

December

Aging & Poverty Issues