

Information Item

Date: October 13, 2020

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Evan Raleigh, Assistant City Manager
Wanda Allen-Abraha, Human Relations Director

Subject: Summary of Fair Housing Testing

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: Support Inclusion of Community Populations

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



The federal Fair Housing Act, as well as the North Carolina State Fair Housing Act, prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status in rental, sales, mortgage lending, and insurance markets.

Fair housing testing is an investigative tool that can be used to gather evidence in such circumstances. It allows the collection of evidence of housing policies, treatment, and/or practices to compare with the requirements of fair housing law and/or other civil rights laws.

Legal Aid of North Carolina's Fair Housing Project has been conducting fair housing testing since 2011, using a methodology approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). LANC has a trained staff with decades of experience in fair housing law, including conducting and overseeing fair housing testing projects.

Attached you will find a brief summary and results of the 2019-2020 Winston-Salem Fair Housing Tests by Legal Aid of North Carolina's Fair Housing Project.