



NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH *Celebrating the 51st Anniversary of the Colorado Fair Housing Practices Act*

DENVER – Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. has declared April 2010 Fair Housing Month to raise awareness of the anti-discrimination protections Coloradans receive regarding housing issues.

Colorado was the first state in the nation to make discrimination in private housing illegal in 1959, making this year the 51st anniversary of the Colorado Fair Housing Practices Act. This year is the 42nd anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

The proclamation can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.dora.state.co.us/dora_pages/newsreleases/April2010FairHousingMonthProclamation.pdf

“Colorado’s Civil Rights Division has conducted a study recently showing that if you are African American or Hispanic in Colorado, you are at least twice as likely as whites to be steered into a sub-prime or high-cost mortgage loan, despite level of income,” said Director Steven Chavez.

The Colorado Civil Rights Division, a division within DORA, has just released its 2009 Annual Report, which highlights discriminatory predatory lending and other civil rights trends in the state. To view an online copy, visit

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/civil-rights/index.htm>

The Colorado Civil Rights Division and the Colorado Civil Rights Commission investigate housing discrimination complaints involving a Colorado property. The Division and Commission have brought several discriminatory predatory lending enforcement actions based on national origin in Weld County in the past year in order to curtail the practices of unscrupulous mortgage and housing businesses. Other examples of Colorado cases include mortgage lenders red-lining certain neighborhoods in which higher rates are charged; a landlord claiming that she will not rent an apartment to a family because they have small children; and an HOA not providing a resident a reasonable accommodation for a disability.

If borrowers believe they have been discriminated against with regard to renting or purchasing a home, or in financing that home, due to their race, color, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, sex, disability, creed or religion, familial or marital status, they can contact the Colorado Civil Rights Division at 1560 Broadway, Suite 1050, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 894-2997 or (800) 262-4845.

Real estate agents, mortgage brokers, and appraisers are regulated by the Colorado Division of Real Estate, also within the Department of Regulatory Agencies. The Division of Real Estate can take action when consumers are defrauded in a real estate transaction, even if the conduct was not because of discrimination. Complaints can be submitted to the Division of Real Estate at 1560 Broadway, Suite 925, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 894-2166.

The Colorado Foreclosure Hotline (877) 601-HOPE connects borrowers to housing counselors who can provide information on options when facing foreclosure.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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Honorary Proclamation



BILL RITTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

COLORADO FAIR HOUSING MONTH April 2010

WHEREAS, April marks the 42nd anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, which enunciates a national commitment to fair housing without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Colorado became the first state to make discrimination in private housing illegal; and

WHEREAS, the 42nd anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act and the 51st anniversary of the Colorado Fair Housing Practices Act emphasize the great strides our state and nation have made toward breaking down barriers which impede the rights of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado acknowledges the efforts of the Colorado Civil Rights Division, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and countless other state agencies, local governments, and community members for promoting fair housing;

Therefore, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim April 2010,

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this twenty-seventh day of
January, 2010

Bill Ritter, Jr.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor