



## Communications Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fair Housing Learning Session Slated for Jonesboro**

Jonesboro, AR—Carol Johnson, Director of the State of Arkansas Fair Housing Commission, will be in Jonesboro on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. She will be conducting a Learning Session about Fair Housing for all interested members of the public. The session will be held from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the First Floor Conference Room in the Municipal Center at 300 S. Church Street. Ms. Johnson will also be presenting that evening to the Jonesboro City Council at their regular meeting at 5:30pm.

This Learning Session is specifically designed to allow architects, contractors, housing managers, residents, and individuals the opportunity to ask questions in a free-form environment. Ms. Johnson will answer questions such as:

- What housing is covered by Fair Housing regulations?
- What activities or practices are prohibited?
- What are the requirements for new buildings?
- What housing opportunities exist for families?
- What is fair lending?
- What are disability rights in housing?
- What is Senior Housing?

The City of Jonesboro is dedicated to affirmatively supporting fair housing rules and regulations. The City works closely with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop and administer programs that help provide fair, affordable access to housing in Jonesboro.

According to the Fair Housing Commission website:

“The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission is a quasi-judicial, regulatory, enforcement agency that works in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to enforce fair housing rules and regulations.” Its mission is to both enforce state and federal fair housing laws and to educate the public on fair housing laws, rules, and regulations.

With Act 1785 of 2001, the Arkansas Legislature declared that, "[t]he opportunity to obtain housing and other real estate without discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or familial status... is recognized and declared to be a civil right."

Carol Johnson, J.D., M.A., is the Director of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission. During her tenure at the agency, Ms. Johnson has resolved numerous fair housing/fair lending cases and has assisted many Arkansas municipalities in creating and/or amending existing ordinances to comply with zoning requirements, including the City of Hot Springs, the City of Jonesboro, the City of Harrison, the City of North Little Rock and the City of DeWitt.

Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Christian University, a Master of Arts from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law. She has been the Director of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission since 2005.

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