



NAACP

Virginia State Conference
Region 3, Northern Virginia

April 29, 2021

Mr. Chuck Bean
Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)

Dear Mr. Bean:

The Alexandria City, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) branches are committed to advancing fair housing in Northern Virginia by integrating segregated neighborhoods and eliminating opportunity gaps between residents of color and white residents. We support the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) efforts to conduct a regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) inclusive of Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Montgomery County, Maryland.

The color of your skin and the neighborhood you live in can be linked to sharp disparities in employment, education, income, and health throughout our region. The regional AI and resulting strategies have the potential to seriously address long-neglected fair housing issues that continue to erect barriers to prosperity for residents of color.

As a civil rights organization with a long history of addressing fair housing issues, we collectively expect that COG will engage with and consult with the Northern Virginia NAACP branches beginning immediately. It is critical this analysis accurately captures the discrimination and disparities residents of color continue to face and results in effective and comprehensive solutions for addressing these issues. The NAACP should be represented on the Community Advisory Committee and be frequently consulted throughout the effort's data collection, analysis, and solution development phases. Only through collaboration with community organizations like the NAACP, will COG and its member governments be able to craft the strategies needed to address the long-standing issues of housing segregation and racial disparities in housing, employment, education, income, and health that have plagued our region for far too long.

We ask that COG allow one to three members of the Northern Virginia NAACP region to be a part of the Community Advisory Committee.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Alexandria NAACP Branch President, Ms. Darrlynn Franklin, on (240) 281-2247 or by email at alexandrianaacp7043@yahoo.com. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darrlynn Franklin

Darrlynn Franklin
Alexandria Branch President

Julius D. Spain Sr.

Julius D. J.D. Spain, Sr.
Arlington Branch President &
Regional Vice President, Region 3

Karen Campblin

Karen Campblin
Fairfax County Branch President

Cozy E. Bailey

Rev. Cozy Bailey
Prince William County Branch President

cc. Hilary Chapman, Housing Program Manager, COG
Alexandria City Council
Arlington County Board
Fairfax Board of Supervisors
Loudoun Board of Supervisors
Prince William Board of County Supervisors