

April 14, 2011

Mr. Roy Bateman  
Community Development Block Grant Program  
County of Marin  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #308  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**SUBJ: Recommendations from the Fairfax Town Council on the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)**

Dear Mr. Bateman:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Fairfax Town Council with some concerns about the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) recently released draft by Fair Housing of Marin. While it sets out impediments, it only half-heartedly creates solutions to those impediments. This document will guide us for the next three to fifteen years on a critical issue in our county and we feel it deserves more time and more input from the citizens that it proposes to serve. In Fairfax, we have been developing projects for Senior and other Affordable Housing as well as reviewing the zoning to make it easier to create mixed-use housing. At our April 6, 2011 council meeting we included the AI Executive summary on our agenda. We recognize that our county has some environmental, political and geographical barriers to creating new affordable housing but we encourage us all to make changes where we can to better incorporate working families, seniors and the disabled into our communities.

We have some national egg on our faces and the remedy to this is putting forth the best analysis, priorities, action plan and device for monitoring our progress. We appreciate that the public comment deadline has been extended to May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and hope that adequate time will be dedicated to produce a document that achieves stated goals. The first public meeting on this document was in front of the Community Development Block Grant Committee on March 29, 2011, and many talented and concerned citizens spoke up about the inadequacies of this document. Some community groups had a hand in the drafting, but it is clear that the public process has been limited.

The Fairfax Town Council recommends that:

1. Each Town/City include the AI on their next council meeting agenda to take public comments and relay those to the CDBG Subcommittee; and
2. The AI be printed and displayed in multiple languages, we understand that it has now been in Spanish and Vietnamese and recommend it be posted in City/Town Halls and Community Centers across Marin; and
3. Fair Housing of Marin meet as often as needed with the working group being put together through Marin Community Foundation and others who work with "protected classes;" and
4. Staff should be made available as appropriate to speak at Council meetings and community meetings hosted by community advocates who feel the need to reach specific audiences; and
5. Review the pipeline study that was conducted for the county to determine relevance to this AI; and
6. Staff draft and circulate an Action Plan that categorizes the major players and the specific actions each can and should take; and
7. Staff begin drafting devices for monitoring progress.

Thank you for considering these recommendations in your process.

Sincerely,

Larry Bragman  
Mayor

C: Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Marin County Council Members  
Fair Housing of Marin