

Meeting note of the Tenant-Landlord Commission's (TLC) Housing Discrimination Subcommittee meeting which took place on 5/13/19 with Bismah Ahmed, Michael Pruitt, Kirit Mookerjee, and Kellen MacBeth in attendance:

- **Source of Income (SOI) Housing Discrimination Policy Proposal** - Kellen and Michael provided an overview of the policy proposal which was sent to the full TLC for consideration on 5/1. The proposal contains two elements: 1) amending the Arlington Human Rights Ordinance to add SOI as a protected class and 2) expanding the jurisdiction of the Communities of Opportunity Virginia tax credit program to include Arlington County. Bismah voiced concerns with the proposal and stated that AOBA would oppose the first part of the proposal (SOI discrimination ban) but would likely support the second part (expansion of the tax credit program to Arlington). The group discussed questions related to the proposal's legality, impact, and justification. Kellen and Michael also described the research and analytical steps taken since July 2018 to develop the policy including discussions with the following:
 - D.C. Human Rights Office,
 - County Board members,
 - County staff within CPHD, DHS, and the Office of Human Rights,
 - local nonprofit groups working with the target population,
 - nonprofits working with Virginia to spread awareness of the Communities of Opportunity tax credit program, and
 - national groups familiar with SOI-related housing policies.
- **Housing Choice Voucher Forum** - The group discussed the value of providing a forum for landlords and other Arlington residents to discuss ways to make local administration of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program more efficient and better for landlords and tenants. A chief criticism of any proposed SOI discrimination ban from some landlords is the cost imposed on landlords participating in the HCV program. The group agreed that having the Department of Human Services (DHS)/Arlington Public Housing Authority (PHA) in the room for the forum was important to its success. Kellen agreed to follow-up with Nicole Harmon who was unable to attend the subcommittee meeting to see if DHS could participate in the forum. Kellen spoke with Nicole after the meeting and she proposed including the HCV discussion as a part of the Housing Matters Forum in September. The subcommittee will work with DHS and CPHD to help with planning as appropriate.
- **Discussion of Criminal History Housing Discrimination** - Kellen relayed his initial research and thoughts on the problems facing formerly incarcerated individuals with finding housing in Arlington. He proposed that the subcommittee work to facilitate a community process for developing a policy proposal to address this discrimination. The subcommittee will work on this more in future meetings.