



GREATER NEW ORLEANS
**FAIR HOUSING
ACTION CENTER**

2014 Priorities for the New Orleans City Council

Transforming a Legacy: Rental Habitability

- The majority of New Orleanians live in rental housing, which is not currently held to any minimum standard of habitability.
- The City should regularly inspect rentals to ensure that properties are in safe, habitable and healthy conditions.
- A proactive, inspection-driven process is more effective than the complaint-driven process that has failed renters.
- Inspections would ensure that every property meets minimum standards of habitability.
- Property owners would pay a minimal fee for inspections to fund and staff the program.

Enforcing Protections: New Orleans Human Relations Commission

- The City of New Orleans has codified the belief that people should live free from discrimination regardless of their race, color, religion, familial or disability status, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, age, gender identity or expression.
- Protections on the basis of age, sexual orientation, gender expression and marital status are currently unavailable under state or federal law, making the local code invaluable to victims seeking relief.
- Enforcement of the current code requires that the New Orleans Human Relations Commission has the funding and capacity to operate effectively.

Planning for Opportunity: the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance

- The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) is essential to creating an integrated city based on choice and opportunity.
- The City Council should adopt a CZO that maximizes incentives for market-based developers to build racially and economically integrated housing.
- The City Council should adopt a CZO that establishes a simple, clear process by which housing for people with disabilities can be accommodated in policies, regulations and land use decisions as is required by federal law.

The New Orleans City Council Should:

- ✓ Establish an affirmative process that ensures rental homes meet minimum standards of habitability, health and safety.
- ✓ Fund and develop the Human Relations Commission to enforce its mission to promote non-discrimination and opportunity.
- ✓ Approve a CZO that incentivizes integrated communities and housing opportunity for people of different abilities, incomes and backgrounds.