

FAIR HOUSING PLAN

City of Olean

April, 2016

I. Introduction

The City of Olean understands the importance of taking action to further fair housing in the community and is committed to meeting its responsibilities in this respect as a recipient of Federal Community Development Block Grant funds. To ensure that residents are aware of fair housing provisions under Federal and State law and of the processes and assistance available to obtain compliance with existing statutes, the City has developed this Fair Housing Plan. The Plan describes the procedures developed to further fair housing in the community.

II. Availability Of Information

The City's Fair Housing Plan recognizes that public knowledge of fair housing provisions is the first step in expanding equal opportunity. Toward that end, the City has taken, or will take the following actions:

A. *Appoint a Fair Housing Officer*

The Fair Housing Officer, Mary George, appointed by the Common Council, has the following responsibilities:

1. Maintain Federal and State fair housing information in the City Community Development Department including brochures issued by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the New York State Division of Human Rights.
2. Record initial information regarding housing discrimination complaints on a standard form.
3. Forward copies of all complaints to and, as appropriate, consult with the Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity Division of the applicable HUD Office.

B. *Provide Information*

The City will make available, upon request, copies of applicable Federal and State laws which contain anti-discrimination provisions, including: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and the Human Rights Law (Executive Law, Article 15) of the State of New York.

C. *Promote Fair Housing Activities and Available Resources*

The City will designate the month of April as Fair Housing Month and will promote said designation through Common Council proclamation.

The City will further promote fair housing and housing resources by posting Fair Housing posters in visible locations within all City buildings.

III. Discrimination Complaints

The City will provide information and assistance to individuals who feel that they have been the victims of discrimination in regard to housing.

A. *Discriminatory Housing Practices*

For the purpose of this Plan, a discriminatory housing practice means an act that is unlawful under sections 804, 805, 806 or 818 of the Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended). Such discriminatory housing practices include discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, discrimination in the provision of brokerage services, or interference, coercion, or intimidation, as defined under the Act, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status.

B. *Receiving Complaints*

The Fair Housing Officer will record information on a standard form to ensure that a complete file is established. Following this, the Fair Housing Officer will then contact the Department of HUD and/or the New York State Division of Human Rights to review the particulars of the complaint and request guidance in the formal filing of the complaint in cases where the individual decides to use this method. Copies of all complaints will also be forwarded to the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Division of the HUD Office in Buffalo, New York. If the complainant decides to take his/her case directly to Federal Court, the City will consult with the County Bar Association on the appropriate procedures to be followed and the procedure for securing affordable legal services if the individual is of low- or moderate-income.