

**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

RESOLUTION OF APRIL 10, 2007

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1988 prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination similarly prohibits discrimination, however also prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, domestic partnership status, civil union status, gender identity or expression, and lawful source of income or rent subsidy; and

WHEREAS, equal opportunity to housing without unlawful discrimination is the policy of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights is charged with investigating and prosecuting unlawful housing discrimination in New Jersey and has been very successful in reducing unlawful housing discrimination, and housing discrimination is the fastest growing segment of the Division's intake, and especially since the creating of the Division's Housing and MDRR Investigations Unit in 2003; and

WHEREAS, equal opportunity is the principle of Fair Housing is not only national and state law and policy, but a fundamental human concept and right for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is recognized as National Fair Housing Month, providing an opportunity for all New Jerseyans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all New Jerseyans and the work of the Division on Civil Rights; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of National Fair Housing Month, on Friday, April 27, 2007, the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights will host its first free "Housing Discrimination Conference: Fair Housing, It's Not an Option, It's the Law," in conjunction with the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the NJ Commission on Civil Rights, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the NJ Department of Community Affairs, the NJ Association of County Disability Services, the NJ Apartment Association, the NJ State Conference of the NAACP, and the Latino Leadership Alliance of NJ; at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square, New Brunswick, New Jersey; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights officially recognizes April as Fair Housing Month and hereby recognize the co-sponsors of the April 27th conference for their interest in providing equal housing

opportunity to the people of New Jersey.