* Date 03-16-2015 Location Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, 505 Riverside Dr., Dayton OH, 45405
* Name: Focus Group: local citizens in a Town Hall
* **Recap of session:**
* This was an advertised Town Hall Meeting open to residents in Montgomery County. Three individuals attended this meeting: 2 males and one female. One male was African American and the other two participants Caucasian. All earned $94,951 or more annually.

**Top 3 areas of Discrimination**

**Most Common:**

67%identified Race/Color as #1

33% identified Race/Color, Sexual Orientation and Familial Status as #2

33% identified Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation and Familial Status as #3

* **Noteworthy stats:**
* **See above.**
* **I know someone who was discriminated against.**
* 3 stated yes.
* 0 stated no.
* **Disability:**

1stated a person with disabilities resides in their home.

* **Current housing is accessible.**
* 0 stated yes.
* 3 stated no
* **Opinion/thoughts about how willing landlords will help people with disabilities.**
* Very willing – 0
* Hesitant – 1
* Unwilling – 1
* **Have you ever asked for a reasonable accommodation or modification?**

0 stated yes

3 stated no

Tell us about your neighborhood.   
Does it or doesn’t it have:

* + Good Schools?

Three individuals felt that schools were important in choosing a neighborhood for many reasons,

including to parents wanting the best quality education for their kids believing that is has an

impact on their children’s future. Two individuals said that a school with good sports programs

also factored into where families chose to move. One individual thought that even families

without kids would find choosing a home in a neighborhood with good schools was important

for resale value. One individual mentioned that we needed to put money into Dayton schools

because for such a large City, the Dayton School district is decades behind in technology that

is available at schools in the rural counties.

* + Groceries and shopping amenities that are plentiful and close?

Not an issue for three individuals.

* + Health Care – is it close or far away?

Not an issue for three individuals.

* + Community Center?

Not an issue for three individuals.

* + **Affordable** housing opportunities?

Three individuals stated that it was important that people have access to affordable housing. Two individuals mentioned that they felt home dollars should be used towards housing subsidies more often than they currently are, and one individual expressed concern about ensuring that Home Dollars are used more in housing families with children and less with the senior housing (explaining that using it with families would have a larger impact on the community). It was also stated by one individual that these Home dollars need to be specifically used in areas of opportunity where there were jobs, schools and shopping. Three people stated that affordable housing locations were not evenly distributed throughout the county effectively.

* + Easy **transportation** to everywhere in the county?

Three individuals didn’t see transportation as a factor because they have vehicles, and

found getting around easy. The three did feel that this could be a factor for low income,

seniors or the disabled communication that may rely on public transportation more often.

* + Is there neighborhood **blight** or problems?

Three people stated there were neighborhood blights problems. One person stated that she recently noticed some properties near where her daughter wanted to purchase a house, but having poorly maintained propertied nearby was a deterrent to purchasing those homes.

* + Is it accessible to **people with disabilities**

One individual stated that it was not at all, whereas another individual stated it was somewhat accessible.

* + What else is important?
* One person mentioned that crime in a neighborhood was an important factor. The same
* individual also mentioned that even rumor and new coverage of crimes in a neighborhood
* (like Huber Heights that had been in the news a lot lately) made such areas less desirable
* and not someplace you would want to live.
* Let’s Talk About Your Housing:
  + Rental or Ownership?

These three are home owners.

* + Did you meet any obstacles in your search for housing?

No comments.

* + Have you experienced any drawbacks since you moved in?

One individual mentioned they have had difficulties finding suitable housing on the bus line.

* + Do you believe housing discrimination is more common when it comes to renting or buying a home?

No comments as to whether it is more common in renting or buying, however one individual

mentioned that enforcement of Fair Housing Laws was important for victims and potential

victims of housing discrimination. Two people felt that furthering and continuing education

on Fair Housing issues was extremely important to ensure that tenants and home buyers

understand their rights and that there is something they can do and a place they can turn to

if they feel housing discrimination is occurring. Without community education, one individual

felt the instances of discrimination would only increase.

* + How are your taxes, insurance rates, and other housing financial obligations?

Two individuals mentioned that affordability was a major factor in where they chose to live, over what amenities where in the area.

Some Questions for Discussion:

* + Have YOU ever been steered away from a place because of your race, gender, disability or because of having children, etc.?

No comments.

* + Were you ever told you were not welcome in a neighborhood or town?

No comments.

* + Did you ever believe you were not welcome somewhere, even though nothing was ever said?
* No comments.
  + Do you know anyone that has filed a housing complaint?

No comments.

* + Do immigrants have problems with discrimination in your neighborhood or town?

One person stated that immigrants do have problems with housing, but are reluctant to come forward and talk about it.

* + What groups of people are discriminated against in this County

All individuals stated that Race was discriminated against, two individuals mentioned disability one mentioned families with children and one said the Muslim religion.

* + Adjourn -