

## FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Fair Housing Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen to promote and implement fair housing for all Arlington residents, regardless of race, religion, national origin, family status, gender status, age, or disability. The Committee, through the Fair Housing Officer Laura Wiener, provides information and services regarding housing discrimination and other housing related issues to current and prospective residents, as well as real estate brokers, bankers, and landlords. The Committee strongly supports the affordable housing efforts of the Affordable Housing Task Force as a way to promote diversity in Arlington.

During the past year the Committee reviewed the Affirmative Fair Housing and Marketing Plan for the affordable condominiums planned for the former Symmes Hospital site. Emphasis was placed on reaching out to diverse organizations in and outside of Arlington, including families in Arlington's METCO program.

A second major effort has involved forming a regional body to work jointly on fair housing issues. Recent studies conclude that affordability is not the sole cause of segregation. While increasing access to affordable housing is important, more can, and should, be done to make Arlington and the region welcoming to minority households, both buyers and renters. Arlington has initiated discussions with Belmont, Lexington and Medford on ways to improve our accessibility.

The Committee continued its long-standing sponsorship of the Martin Luther King Observance. The Committee continues to work with the Affordable Housing Task Force and other committees in Town committed to increasing Arlington's diversity.