

Commission on Human Rights

KY Human Rights Commission places fair housing sign at Carl Braden Center in Louisville

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The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights has placed a new fair housing sign at the Carl Braden Memorial Center at 3208 W Broadway in West Louisville. The commission is the state government authority that enforces the right to equal opportunity, equal treatment, and equal access in housing, public accommodations, employment, and financial transactions.

“The commission wants people to be aware that they have the legal right to the housing of their choice and that housing discrimination is illegal,” said John J. Johnson, executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights.



The sign says, “Fair housing is your right – Use it – All doors are open in Kentucky.”

The late Carl and Anne Braden of Louisville were longtime activists in the fight for civil rights, including fair housing rights. In 1954, when neighborhoods were legally segregated, the white couple sold a home they purchased in the Louisville, Ky., neighborhood of Shively, to an African American family. Andrew and Charlotte Wade and their children suffered violence and hatred after they moved into the house, which was ultimately bombed by people wanting them out of the neighborhood. The Bradens were legally and publicly hounded and ostracized for buying the home for the

couple. This was one of several catalysts that brought legal housing discrimination to the public awareness in Kentucky.

Since 1969, the Carl Braden Memorial Center has hosted meetings of the Kentucky Alliance against Racist and Political Repression, S.C.E.F. (Southern Conference Education Fund), S.N.C.C. (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee), tenants unions, antidiscrimination groups, and citizens concerned about civil rights or social justice issues.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and, through its affiliation with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, enforces federal civil rights laws.

The Kentucky Civil Rights Act makes it illegal to discriminate against people in the areas of employment, financial transactions, housing and public accommodations. Discrimination is prohibited based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, and disability. In employment, discrimination is further prohibited on the basis of age (40-years and over) and tobacco-smoking status. In housing, discrimination is further prohibited based on familial status, which protects people with children in the household under the age of 18-years old and protects women who are pregnant. It is also a violation of the law to retaliate against a person who has made a discrimination complaint to the commission.

For more information, contact the commission at 1.800.292.5566. For details about civil rights and commission activities, visit the website at www.kchr.ky.gov

For news about civil rights and information pertaining to protected classes, visit the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Facebook and Twitter sites. Link onto the sites from the commission website address listed above.