

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota State Legislators Support HUD Fair Housing Complaint

3-20-2015

Contact: Myron Orfield, Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity, 612-625-7976, orfield@umn.edu

Will Stancil, Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity, 612-624-8329, stanc047@umn.edu

Sue Watlov Phillips, Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, 612-590-9577, sue@micah.org

A number of Minnesota legislators have recently indicated their support for the HUD fair housing complaint filed by the Metropolitan Interfaith Affordable Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH), and the cities of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield, against several state agencies.

The complaint was filed last November. It asserts that the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the Metropolitan Council have perpetuated housing segregation in the Twin Cities region, concentrating racial minorities and families with low incomes in a handful of suburbs.

The Minnesota legislators sent letters to HUD officials expressing their hope that the complaint would result in a “more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration,” particularly in the areas they represent.

Members of both houses expressed their approval for the complaint’s aims. In the Minnesota State House, letters were sent to HUD by Representatives Ryan Winkler, John Lesch, Frank Hornstein, Ann Rest, Karen Clark, Jerry Newton, Carlos Mariani, as well as Deputy Minority Leader Erin Murphy and Minority Leader Paul Thissen.

State Senators Kari Dziedzic, Scott Dibble, Bobby Joe Champion, Jeff Hayden, and Patricia Torres Ray filed a joint letter of support.

“I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act’s objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas,” wrote Minority Leader Thissen. “I understand that [the complaint’s] aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims.”

In her letter, Representative Clark discussed the state’s severe racial disparities, noting that even after a diligent legislative effort to address racial disparities in home ownership, Minnesota still ranked third-worst in the nation. (Representative Clark is the author of the \$100 Million Investment into the Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME) Law HF997, to begin to address Minnesota’s home ownership disparities.) She concluded with a strong call to action directed towards HUD: “Minnesota urgently needs HUD’s positive federal action to promote the fair housing opportunities presented in the [fair housing] discrimination complaint. Please act to provide that leadership.”

HUD has accepted the complaint and is currently preparing to investigate its claims.

Paul Thissen
State Representative



Minnesota House of Representatives

January 22, 2015

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough:

I am an elected official. I am a State Representative for 12 years currently representing Minneapolis and previously representing Richfield.

I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas.

I am familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. I understand that its aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims, and hope that the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in our communities such as South Minneapolis.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Thissen".

Paul Thissen
State Representative



Erin Murphy
State Representative

District 64A
Ramsey County



Minnesota House of Representatives

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Blvd, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

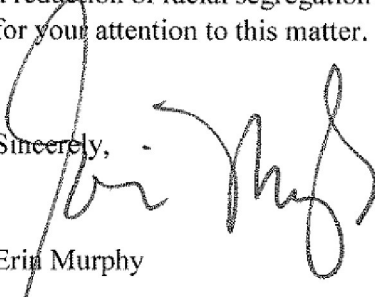
Dear Director McGough:

I am an elected official and a Deputy Minority Leader in the Minnesota House of Representatives. I have served in the legislature since 2006 and represent district 64A, which contains parts of Saint Paul.

I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas.

I am familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAHA, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. I understand that its aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims, and hope that the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in communities such as Saint Paul. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Erin Murphy
Deputy Minority Leader



Karen Clark
State Representative

District 62A
Minneapolis



Minnesota

Representatives

February 20, 2015

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough:

I am a Minnesota State Legislator who represents four inner city-neighborhoods in South Minneapolis. I was elected to the MN House of Representatives in 1980 and have been elected every two years since. My district is considered the most diverse, low income, and densely populated in Minnesota.

I'm writing to let you know that I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas. I'm familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota and understand that its aims are to require our state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. As a strong supporter of these aims, I hope the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region and will help us reduce the racial segregation and concentration of poverty in communities such as South and North Minneapolis, the East Side and West Side St. Paul and our Metropolitan suburbs. I hope and expect those changes to positively impact the aspirations of residents in the four neighborhoods of my own legislative District 62A--Phillips,Whittier, Stevens Square, and Powderhorn Park Neighborhoods in South Minneapolis.

I know we can make significant progress with targeted efforts to address this form of racial discrimination. Just three years ago I successfully sponsored state legislation to require our state housing agency, the

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, to more diligently address Minnesota's unacceptable racial disparities record in home-ownership that ranked us worst in the nation. As a result of more targeted investment policy and procedures, we have now advanced to third worst in the nation. With additional commitment each succeeding year I hope Minnesota is on our way to greatly improving that unacceptable record.

Minnesota urgently needs HUD's positive federal action to promote the fair housing opportunities presented in the MICAH et. al. housing discrimination complaint. Please act to provide that leadership.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Clark".

Karen Clark
State Representative

Cc: Myron Orfield

Frank Hornstein
State Representative

District 61A
Hennepin County



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, TRANSPORTATION FINANCE
ENERGY POLICY
TRANSPORTATION POLICY
WAYS AND MEANS

January 27, 2015

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough:

I am a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. I have been an elected official since 2002 representing constituents of district 61A in Minneapolis.

I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas.

I am familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. I understand that its aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims, and hope that the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in communities such as Minneapolis.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Hornstein".

Frank Hornstein
State Representative



John Lesch
State Representative

District 66B
St. Paul



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, CIVIL LAW
JUDICIARY FINANCE AND POLICY
PUBLIC SAFETY FINANCE AND POLICY
RULES AND LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION
TAXES

January 22, 2014

Ms. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Blvd, Room 2101
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough:

I am an elected official, representing Saint Paul in the Minnesota House of Representatives since 2003.

I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan area.

I am familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. I understand that its aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims, and hope that the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in communities such as Saint Paul.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lesch".

John Lesch
State Representative



Carlos Mariani
State Representative

District 65B
Ramsey County St. Paul



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, E-12 EDUCATION; ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES; WAYS AND MEANS; FINANCE
EDUCATION FINANCE AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS FINANCE DIVISION; K-12 FINANCE DIVISION

January 14, 2015

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough:

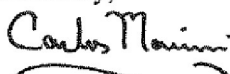
I am an elected official. I have been serving in the City of St. Paul as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives for over 20 years.

I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas.

I am familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. I understand that its aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims, and hope that the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in communities such as St. Paul.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,


Carlos Mariani
State Representative



Jerry Newton
State Representative

District 37A
Anoka County



Minnesota House of Representatives

January 22, 2015

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough:


I am an elected official. Currently serving my third term as a Minnesota State Representative for District 37A – Coon Rapids, Blaine, and Spring Lake Park.

I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas.

I am familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. I understand that its aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims, and hope that the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in communities such as Coon Rapids, Blaine, and Spring Lake Park.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Jerry Newton
State Representative



Senator Ann H. Rest

President Pro Tem

235 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651.296.2889

Fax: 651.225.7590

E-mail: annr@senate.mn

Website: www.senate.mn/senatorrest



Senate

State of Minnesota

January 29, 2015

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: MICAH et.al v. State of Minnesota, et.al
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough:

I am an elected official of Minnesota, serving as a State Senator for District 45 since 2000.

I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas.

I am familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. I understand that its aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims, and hope that the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in communities such as Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ANN H. REST
Senator, District 45

Representing the communities of Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, Plymouth and Robbinsdale

Chair, Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

Member: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board; Legislative Audit Commission;

State Capitol Preservation Commission

COMMITTEES: Chair, Tax Reform Division; Vice Chair, Taxes; Transportation and Public Safety; Transportation and Public Safety Finance Division; State Departments and Veterans Finance Division;
Rules Committee Subcommittee on Elections



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Ryan Winkler
State Representative

District 46A
Hennepin County



Minnesota House of Representatives

January 25, 2015

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough:

I am a State Representative, and this is my 5th term serving as an elected official. I represent the areas of Golden Valley, Plymouth, and St. Louis Park.

I strongly support the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating more racially and socially integrated metropolitan areas.

I am familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. I understand that its aims are to require state agencies and cities to work together to distribute affordable housing more evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region. I support these aims, and hope that the resolution of the complaint results in a more equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region, resulting in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in communities such as Golden Valley, Plymouth, and St. Louis Park.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Winkler".

Ryan Winkler
State Representative



February 6, 2015

Mr. Maurice McGough, Director
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Midwest Region Office, Region V
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Senate

State of Minnesota

Re: MICAH et.al. v. State of Minnesota, et.al.
Title VI Case Number: 05-15-003-6
Section 109 Case Number: 05-15-003-9

Dear Director McGough,

We are Minnesota State Senators, representing districts from the City of Minneapolis.

We are writing today to express our strong support of the federal Fair Housing Act's objective of eliminating racial isolation and creating a more racially and socially integrated metropolitan area. We understand the Act requires state agencies and cities work together to distribute affordable housing evenly in every community across the Twin Cities region and we support that goal.

All of us are familiar with the housing discrimination complaint filed by MICAH, the cities of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center and Richfield against the State of Minnesota. It is our hope that the resolution of the complaint will result in a reduction of racial segregation and poverty concentration in Minneapolis and in all communities.

Thank you for your consideration and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sen. Kari Dzielzy

Sen. D. Scott Dibble

Sen. Bobby Joe Champion

Sen. Jeff Hayden

Sen. Patricia Torres Ray