

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION

AND

THE CITY OF JONESBORO CITIZENS FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

This is an agreement between the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission and the City of Jonesboro Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board.

## I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

This MOU sets forth an understanding between the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission and the City of Jonesboro by and through its Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board to assist the City of Jonesboro in its objective to affirmatively further fair housing and to promote education and public awareness of fair housing laws thereby aiding in the enforcement of fair housing laws, specifically the Arkansas Fair Housing Act. *See Ark. Code Ann. §16-123-301 et seq. and 42 U.S.C. 3601-3619.*

The City of Jonesboro receives federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and therefore must comply with federal provisions to affirmatively further fair housing. Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act directs that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development "shall administer the programs and activities relating to housing and urban development in a manner affirmatively to further fair housing".

To support the goal and mission of furthering fair housing within the City of Jonesboro, the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission and the City of Jonesboro will partner together to ensure fair housing outreach, education and enforcement.

In particular, this MOU is intended to:

- Enhance communication and cooperation between the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission and the City of Jonesboro;
- Establish a procedure for the exchange of information between the City of Jonesboro and the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission relating to fair housing complaints occurring within Jonesboro;
- Provide fair housing training to the City of Jonesboro Citizen's Fair Housing Advisory Board; and

- Cooperatively promote fair housing education, outreach and awareness between the State of Arkansas by and through the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission and the City of Jonesboro.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

On October 4, 2016, the Jonesboro City Council passed RES-16:131 to submit to HUD the City of Jonesboro's plan to affirmatively further fair housing and that plan included the creation of a Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board.

On March 20 2018, the City of Jonesboro passed RES-18:034 to establish and appoint a Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board to be facilitated by the Grants and Community Development Department.

The City of Jonesboro Grants and Community Development Department will be responsible for the Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board which is comprised of seven (7) citizens. The Advisory Board will be responsible for conducting educational and training opportunities throughout the City; advocating for fair housing at the local, state and federal levels; and identifying fair housing issues of concern.

## **III. COLLABORATIONS UNDER THIS MOU**

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission shall undertake the following activities:

- 1) Provide fair housing training/technical assistance to the City of Jonesboro;
- 2) Provide fair housing training/technical assistance to identified parties; and
- 3) Provide fair housing enforcement of complaints submitted to the City of Jonesboro and/or its Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board.

The City of Jonesboro Citizens Advisory Fair Housing Board shall undertake the following activities:

- 1) Refer to the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission complaints presented to the Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board for fair housing processing; and
- 2) Refer to the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission cases requiring fair housing enforcement.

## **VII. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:**

1. Written requests for amendments or modification to the MOU may be initiated by either the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission or the City of Jonesboro Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board. Such amendments and/or modifications

shall be agreed upon by both parties (evidenced by written signature) and incorporated into the original MOU.

2. This MOU shall remain in effect until such time as the MOU is amended or terminated by written agreement from either party.

### **VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXECUTION**

This MOU shall be effective upon execution by the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission and the City of Jonesboro Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board authorized officials named below.

Agreed to this \_\_\_\_day of June 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harold Perrin, Mayor  
The City of Jonesboro

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Johnson, Director  
Arkansas Fair Housing Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date