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February 2, 2017

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Ms. Colette Pollard
Reports Management Officer, QDAM
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW.
Washington, DC 20410-0500

Submitted electronically via www.regulations.gov

RE: DOCKET NO. FR-5911-N-02 "60-DAY NOTICE OF PROPOSED INFORMATION COLLECTION: AFFIRMATIVE FAIR HOUSING MARKETING PLAN"

Dear Ms. Pollard:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") regarding the proposed information collection for Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing plans ("AFHM Plan"). This includes form numbers HUD-935.2A for multifamily housing, 935.2B for single family housing, and HUD 935.2C for condominiums or cooperatives. HUD uses these forms to comply with affirmative fair housing marketing requirements. The State of Texas is committed to fair housing choice and opportunities for Texans.

The Current HUD Forms are Ineffective

In the request for public comment HUD prompted input on the following: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs ("the Department") currently requires HUD form 935.2B for single family housing, or an equivalent form, for Single Family Administrators receiving Federal Funds under 10 TAC §20.9 General Administration and Program Requirements. The Department uses these forms to document affirmative marketing efforts. The current forms have some limitations and are not effective for activities occurring outside of a fixed census tract. The form should be revised to contemplate a variety of single family activities including those that offer tenants a choice in housing location such as Tenant Based Rental Assistance ("TBRA") or down payment assistance. The current form

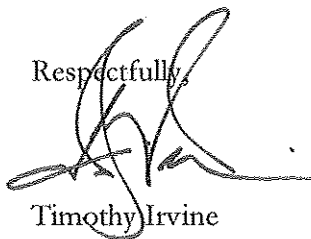


assumes the housing options are fixed to a specific census tract. The form fails to account for activities in which households choose the location of their housing.

Demographic Data Should Align with the Categories Reported to HUD

HUD's Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing plan forms include limited racial and ethnic demographic groups. The groups on HUD's AFHM plan forms do not correspond with changes required in the data reported to HUD under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act ("HERA") of 2008. HERA requires the Department to annually report certain information to HUD. There are 16 racial categories reported to HUD, versus the seven categories available on HUD's AFHM plan forms. The mismatch in demographic data, without a determination of statistical underrepresentation of racial groups, makes the data collection and reporting less consistent.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Irvine', written over the word 'Respectfully'.

Timothy Irvine
Executive Director