

March 31, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **April is Fair Housing Month**

The Fair Housing Act, signed in April 1968, makes it illegal to discriminate in housing transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or familial status. Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, along with communities and organizations across the country, recognize Fair Housing Month by hosting an array of activities that enhance the public's awareness of their fair housing rights and highlight the national commitment to end housing discrimination.

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations has partnered with the Springfield branch of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare to present an informational meeting that will focus on two issues: tenants' fair housing rights and universal design. Universal design refers to broad-based design ideas meant to produce buildings, products and environments that are easily and seamlessly accessible to the able-bodied and physically disabled alike.

Speakers will include Joseph E. Hills, attorney for Legal Services of Southern Missouri and Katheryne Staeger-Wilson, Director of Disability Services at Missouri State University.

The meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Friday, April 8, 2011, at the Missouri Career Center – Ozark Region, 1514 S. Glenstone Ave., in Springfield. The meeting is opened to the public.

For more information, contact: Carol Anne Zablocki, Commissioner, at (417) 864-1038 or via e-mail at [czablocki@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:czablocki@springfieldmo.gov).



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