Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

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Developing the AI

- Assume that the AI is:
  - Completed
  - Accepted
  - Universally beloved
- Each community will have a different process, but result should be the same
- Data, data, data
Implementing the AI

• Typical results:
  • Fund local Fair Housing Council
  • Propping up wobbly desk
  • Focus on “non-discrimination”
  • Limited focus on “affirmatively” furthering fair housing
What can we do with it?

- In an ideal world, we need several things:
  - Agreement that there is a problem
  - Understanding that action can be taken to remediate it
  - Political will to take the action

- We don’t live in an ideal world
  - “Birds of a feather flock together.”
  - “Government can’t do anything about this,” or “Get yer government hands off my housing!”
  - “I’ll get killed come election time.”
Democracy

- The will of the people can make a difference, getting to:
  - Agreement that there is a problem
    - Show the effects – speak to the population that is in denial
  - Understanding that action can be taken to remediate it
    - Connect cause and effect
  - Political will to take the action
    - Support officials who take a stand

- Then, there is always the hammer
  - Loss of federal funds

We’ve made it...or are at least close enough

Now what do we do with it?
Incorporation in Plans

- Consolidated & Action
  - Community Development Staff should be doing this by nature, but may need some help

- Comprehensive
  - Engage your Planning Departments
    - What are the long range plans? What are the zoning codes based off of?
    - What is the process for making amendments?

- Other, including Strategic
Citizen Participation

- For the AI, Fair Housing Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, Action Plan, CAPER, and on and on…
  - Citizen Participation Plan guides how individuals can provide input into these documents
- Research your local Citizen Participation Plan
  - Most cover the minimum HUD requirements
  - Can be amended through citizen participation itself
Improving Citizen Participation

• Most of the time, it is a Public Hearing
• Need more effective ways
  • Review and two-way discussions
  • Small group engagements

• Advocates can have a stronger voice by organizing
Strategies

- **Entitlements**
  - Data, Data, Data
  - Engage the interested parties

- **Advocates**
  - Amend the Citizen Participation Plan
  - Take advantage of the Citizen Participation Plan
  - Form a group
    - Lake County Housing Action Coalition (LCHAC)
The Future

- Fair Housing is a natural part of the conversation
- Plans consider furthering fair housing throughout their development
- Communities slowly but surely integrate