

When neighbors of diverse backgrounds come together, great things happen. New friendships blossom, acceptance and understanding improve, while tensions subside. By learning to better live together, we discover how much we have in common.

The City of Lancaster encourages everyone to get to know their neighbors. Invite several over to enjoy the game, schedule playtime with the kids, or just chat over coffee and see what's new.

Building such bonds creates stronger, more resilient neighborhoods and lasting friendships that see beyond the things that make us different while discovering the ideas and values we share.

Lancaster welcomes everyone to be a part of our caring community and supports fair housing.

Regardless of your race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, source of income, disability, genetic characteristics, or age, you are entitled to fair and equal treatment when seeking a place to live.

Landlords, property owners, lenders, and their agents may not discriminate against you based on any of these characteristics.

If you believe you have experienced illegal discrimination or harassment, report it. The proper authorities will investigate your claim and if substantiated, will take appropriate action. Wherever possible, a mediator will endeavor to resolve the complaint amicably, but if necessary, will file suit to ensure your rights are upheld.

To report suspected discrimination, contact the L.A. County Housing Rights Center at 800-477-5977 or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 800-669-9777.

FAIR HOUSING:

It's the law and the right thing to do.

Common violations of Fair Housing laws include:

- Refusal to sell or rent housing based on any of the aforementioned personal or family characteristics.
- Representing that a home is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when in fact it is.
- Denial of a home loan or homeowner's insurance based on discriminatory factors.
- Offering different terms or conditions in connection with the sale or rental of housing than those offered to others.
- Refusal to permit reasonable modifications at the occupant's expense, to accommodate a disability.
- Discriminatory policies, practices, terms, or conditions that result in unequal access to housing or housing-related services.

All of these are violations of the Fair Housing Act. To learn more, visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing.