

My name is Kathrynne Lamkin. I've been a resident of the County for 8½ years. I'm speaking in behalf of the Reston organization, Black Focus which represents over 200 Black families in Reston.

We strongly support the proposed Human Rights Ordinance and urge its passage in the strongest form possible. It is very encouraging to us to see our County government taking affirmative action and giving positive support to the issues of human rights.

It is because of this that we would stress the necessity of these following 3 points:

1. The Human Rights Commission must have cease and desist power; the power to subpoena and investigate. We already have too many ordinances and laws in this County that are useless because there are no powers with which to enforce them. To create another such ordinance in Fairfax County in 1974 would make mockery of the positive action the County has taken.

We do not feel the subpoena power will be abused. It will be strong encouragement for recalcitrant parties to sit down to the mediation table. The Fair Housing Commission has been in existence for approximately 6 years. It has the power to subpoena. In that 6 years the Commission has issued subpoenas less than ½ dozen times. No case has gone to court.

2. It's equally important that the Commission have the staff and money to run effectively its program. We feel that Fairfax County can do no less than Montgomery and Prince George Counties. We support a budget of approximately \$150,000 and a staff of 4 to 6 professionals and 2 clerical workers.
3. Some have questioned the need for a local ordinance since there are state and Federal laws which cover some of the same areas. We feel that violations of human rights should be dealt with efficiently and expeditiously. Having local redress affords this. State and Federal mediation procedures may take months and sometimes years to deal with violations and violators.

If enforced with reasonable diligence this ordinance should begin to rid the County of the more subtle and insidious forms of Institutional Racism against minorities, women, young and older citizens. We urge its passage.

K.M. Lamkin