



CIO's Public Policy team has been engaged in advocacy around fair housing for Portland's immigrant & refugee community. A recent "[audit test](#)" shows that there's still work to be done. The following letter was submitted to [City Commissioner Nick Fish](#) to commend his leadership on fair housing issues, and to urge the city to continue the work of making Portland a more equitable place to live.

To: Nick Fish, Housing Commissioner
Cc: Margaret Van Vliet, Director, Portland Housing Bureau

RE: Housing audit test results

Dear Commissioner Fish,

The Center for Intercultural Organizing joined the Housing Bureau's [Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Committee](#) to represent immigrant and refugee communities' concerns about access to affordable housing in Portland. We were disappointed to see the results of the audit test conducted by the [Fair Housing Council of Oregon](#), which revealed disparate treatment of housing applicants because of race, national origin, disability, and other protected classes.

In the wake of the audit test's release, we celebrate the commitment to furthering fair housing access in Portland that you and Director Van Vliet have shown.

We look forward to seeing that commitment turn into positive action for fair housing in our city. The soon-to-be-published Analysis of Impediments report provides a thoroughly detailed analysis of the challenges faced by the city of Portland, and most importantly, a set of concrete steps that the Bureau can take to do away with structural barriers to and discrimination in affordable housing. Our concerns about fair housing as it specifically impacts the immigrant & refugee community are expressed through the AI report, and if your office is further interested in our input, we would happily provide it in any format or forum.

We also urge you to continue your engagement with stakeholders – those represented on the [PHAC](#) and those not – to make Portland a truly equitable place to live.

Respectfully,

Andrew Riley, Public Policy Director
Ethan Krow, Assistant to the Public Policy Director

<http://www.interculturalorganizing.org/tools/publications/fair-housing-in-portland/>