

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Fair Housing Council Leader Appointed to State Advisory Committee of US Commission on Civil Rights

Milwaukee, WI – William R. Tisdale, head of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council (MMFHC) for nearly 30 years, has been appointed a member of the Wisconsin State Advisory Committee (WSAC) to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

As part of his two-year appointment to the WSAC, Tisdale will help inform the United States Commission on Civil Rights about civil rights issues pertaining to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, voting rights and the administration of justice. The Commission is an independent, bipartisan agency created by Congress in 1957 to investigate voting rights complaints, collect information about discrimination, evaluate federal policies and laws that relate to civil rights, and educate the public about civil rights issues.

This appointment is a continuation of Tisdale's long involvement in the national fair housing movement. Since the beginning of his employment with MMFHC, Tisdale has offered his time and expertise to other organizations, often ensuring that fair housing matters are included in any discussion of equal rights. "Too often, I encounter the belief that housing discrimination is a rare or isolated occurrence," says Tisdale. "In reality, illegal acts of housing discrimination harm millions of Americans every year, damaging every community in the nation."

Tisdale's past service includes appointments to state and national advisory boards including the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, the Wisconsin Real Estate Board, the Wisconsin Legislative Council's Special Committee on Fair Housing and US Congresswoman Gwen Moore's Advisory Committee on Housing. He has also provided technical assistance on the enforcement of fair housing laws to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Department of Justice and the Urban Institute. In addition, Tisdale is also an occasional contributor to academic journals in the fields of civil rights and urban development, and has collaborated with leading academic researchers such as Prof. Gregory Squires of George Washington University to promote understanding of systemic discrimination in the lending and sales markets. In 1988, Tisdale was the founding president of the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), and was active on NFHA's Board until 2002. In 2008, Tisdale was awarded the National

Community Reinvestment Coalition's National Community Reinvestment Award in recognition of his local, regional and national leadership on fair housing.

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MMFHC is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote fair housing throughout the State of Wisconsin by combating illegal housing discrimination and by creating and maintaining racially and economically integrated housing patterns. It operates satellite offices in Dane County (the Fair Housing Center of Greater Madison) and in Northeast Wisconsin (the Fair Housing Center of Northeast Wisconsin).

Persons who feel they may have experienced illegal housing discrimination should call 414-278-1240, or 1-877-647-FAIR, a toll-free number, if not in the 414 area code. All services to victims of illegal housing discrimination are free of charge.