

Testimony of Evie Rhodes
In Support of Continued Funding
For the Connecticut Fair Housing Center

Wednesday February 17, 2010

My name is Evie Rhodes. Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee. I own a home in Churchill Bridge in Newington, CT. This day I stand before you as a victim of housing and racial discrimination. I have been the targeted victim of a major sewage back up in my home, twice in one year. I've also discovered my Homeowners Association did not share approved insurance proceeds with me for my personal losses. The other two homeowners who are White/Caucasian had their losses taken care of. My compensation? Zero.

In addition my mortgage company has broken a written negotiated agreement increasing my mortgage amount, catastrophically causing additional stress, strain and harm taking away the peace of mind of homeownership that I am entitled to.

In deference of your time I will shorten this to say there is an invisible hand, so to speak that is destroying my life, health, and well being, and it shows up in some very critical ways: Discrimination, Race, Housing. Unfortunately I have never been able to comfortably exploit the enjoyment of living in my home, race being the deciding factor.

I am a victim of an unbelievable number of violations when it comes to both my Civil and Human rights. Connecticut Fair Housing represents hope, and advocacy on behalf of the people. They certainly represent it for me as they have offered an opportunity to

correct a terrible unfairness. I stand before you in the hopes that sharing my pain and suffering can prevent it for the next person who may try to achieve homeownership in communities where racism flourishes. Maybe the choices you make here tonight will offer the next person a better chance at it than I have had.

In closure Connecticut Fair Housing is a critical reminder that race discrimination in housing should be "Zero" tolerance. And, that reminder is something that we cannot do without. It is my hope that you will do what is necessary to protect the rights of the people as well as continue to ensure there are entities that exist such as Connecticut Fair Housing to right, that which is wrong.

With Utmost Sincerity I am Evie Rhodes.