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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**Human Relations Commission to host Fair Housing Summit to commemorate Fair Housing Month  
Housing Policy Expert Leah Rothstein will Speak**

(Evansville, IN) – To commemorate the 55<sup>th</sup> year since the passage of Title VIII of the 1968 Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission will host a free Fair Housing Summit on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at the Old National Events Plaza. The summit will feature Leah Rothstein, a housing consultant and co-author of a book with her father Richard Rothstein, “Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law.” The summit will take place from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. Registration is required, and lunch will be provided.

The summit will also feature Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana. The mission of the FHCCI is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education, and outreach. Colette Massengale with the National Association of Realtors will present at the summit. Massengale is the Senior Policy Representative for Fair Housing and serves as the staff liaison to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group. Lon D. Melteson, Regional Director for Region V, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will speak to summit attendees, along with Philip C. Shelton, Director of the Indianapolis Field Office at HUD. Kelley Coures, Executive Director of the Evansville Department of Metropolitan Development will speak at the summit. There will also be breakout sessions on homeownership opportunities and mediating landlord and tenant matters. Please reference the summit agenda.

Examples of housing discrimination include the following: Refusing to reasonably accommodate the needs of a person with a disability; Creating rules that treat a renter with child(ren) differently than renters without children; Subjecting a person to unwelcomed requests to engage in sexual conduct as a condition of obtaining or maintaining housing or housing-related services; Refusing to rent or sell, or charging more or offering different terms because of race or color; refusing to rent, sell, or negotiate because of that person’s birthplace, ethnicity, or ancestry; Refusing to rent to a person because of his or her criminal history may also constitute unlawful discrimination.

The Fair Housing Summit is free and open to the public. Please visit <https://www.evansville.in.gov/fairhousingsummit> to register for the event. The deadline to register for the event is Friday, April 14, 2023. Certification of attendance will be provided for attendees.

The Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission works to eradicate housing discrimination and provides residents with information on fair housing rights. To file a complaint of discrimination, contact the Human Relations Commission at (812) 436-4927 or email [hrc@evansville.in.gov](mailto:hrc@evansville.in.gov).

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