

# Fair housing is local commission's goal

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Discrimination is still present in today's society. In some cases people have problems finding housing because of their gender, race or creed. People who find themselves in these situations can direct their complaints to the Equal Opportunity Fair Housing Commission. The Equal Opportunity Fair Housing Commission has been given the legal responsibility by ordinance to investigate any charges of discrimination based on race, gender or creed, Essie Rutledge, chairperson of the commission, said. After a thorough investigation, the commission determines if the charges meet the requirements of discrimination.

If there is support of the grievance, the commission sets up an informal hearing between the complainant and respondent. The charge is then settled without being brought into the public's eye. However, if no agreement can be reached during the informal hearing, a formal public hearing is necessary. The public hearing consists of a panel that determines if the complaint is valid or invalid. At this time, the case is no longer in the hands of the commission.

All Equal Opportunity Fair Housing Commission meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in the Caucus Room on 232 E. Jackson St., next to the council chambers. There will be a meeting tonight.