

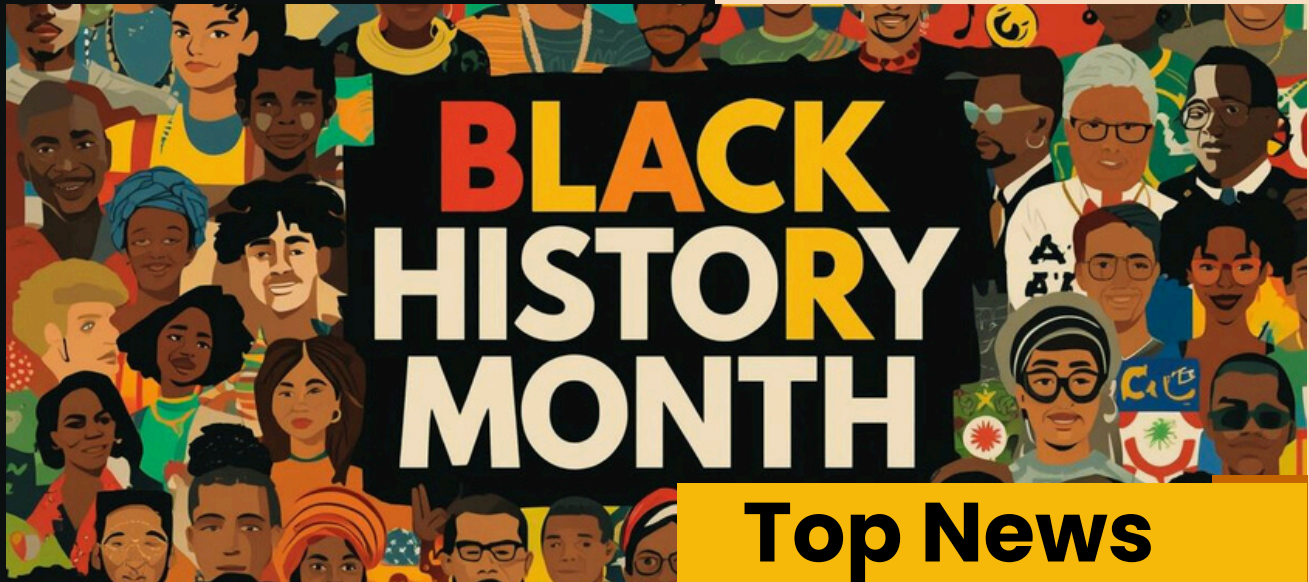
# FAIR HOUSING MONTHLY

WWW.FHCMM.ORG



Fair Housing Council of  
METROPOLITAN MEMPHIS

February 2026



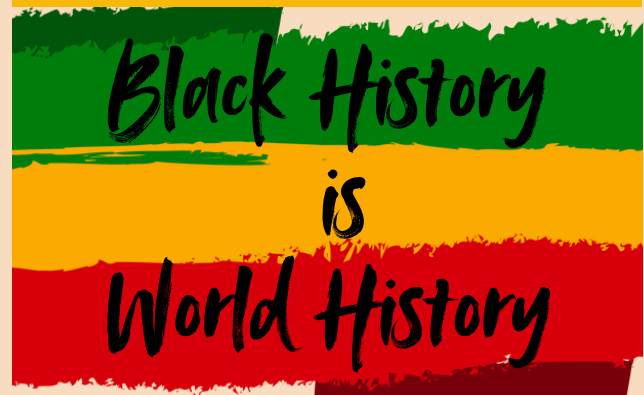
## Black History Is Housing History

From redlining and restrictive covenants to urban renewal and highway construction, housing policy has long shaped the lived experiences of Black families in America. Many of today's disparities in homeownership, wealth, neighborhood investment, and housing stability are rooted in these historical decisions. Fair housing work exists not only to address discrimination today, but to confront and dismantle the systems built yesterday.

### Top News

**SPECIAL REPORT Released:**  
Behind Closed Doors

Fair Housing Month is approaching — Let's Work together!



Catch Us on the News

[CLICK HERE](#)



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## Community Voices... Behind Closed Doors

Black History Month reminds us that the fight for fair housing is not just history—it is ongoing.

This month, the Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis released ***Behind Closed Doors***, a report examining how access to affordable housing continues to be blocked for many families. When Fox News 13 shared the findings, more than 300 community members responded within 16 hours, sharing their own housing experiences.

Their voices confirm what the report reveals: housing barriers are real, widespread, and deeply felt across our community.

As we reflect this month, we remain committed to elevating these voices and ensuring housing opportunity is not decided behind closed doors, but protected through education, accountability, and enforcement.

### To Read the Report

[Click Here](#)



## Did You Know?

### Redlining & Segregation Didn't End—They Evolved

For decades, Black families were locked out of homeownership through redlining, racially restrictive covenants, and discriminatory lending practices. Neighborhoods were intentionally segregated, under-resourced, and cut off from opportunity.

Even after these practices were outlawed, their effects did not disappear. Many of the same neighborhoods impacted by redlining still face:

- Limited housing options
- Higher rents with fewer protections
- Barriers for voucher holders
- Concentrated poverty and disinvestment

Fair housing laws were designed to stop discrimination—but they must be enforced and understood to work.



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## Desmond & Friends Book Series



We're excited to share what's coming next from the Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis.

Desmond & Friends is an upcoming children's book series created to introduce fair housing concepts in a fun, age-appropriate way. Through Desmond and his friends, young readers explore what home means, learn about fairness and inclusion, and understand that everyone deserves a safe place to live.

As we reflect on the legacy of those who fought for equal opportunity and justice, Desmond & Friends represents our commitment to educating the next generation and continuing that work forward.

**Order Finding Home today to complete your set before Book Two arrives!**

**ORDER NOW**

It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations—something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own.

*—Katherine Patterson*

# King Day at the National Civil Rights Museum



We were proud to be part of King Day at the National Civil Rights Museum, a day rooted in reflection, action, and community.

Throughout the event, the Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis engaged with families, advocates, and visitors from across the city and distributed more than 8,000 pieces of fair housing literature, helping ensure that vital housing information reached the people who need it most.

Being present in this space—on a day dedicated to justice and equality—was a powerful reminder that the work of fair housing continues beyond words and legislation. It lives in education, visibility, and making sure communities are informed and empowered.

We're grateful to have taken part in such a meaningful day and to continue carrying this work forward through outreach and connection.



# Fair Housing Month Is Coming

*Let's Work Together*

April is Fair Housing Month, and we're already preparing for a month of education, outreach, and community engagement centered on housing equity and access.

The Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis welcomes opportunities to collaborate with organizations, schools, faith groups, housing providers, and community partners who are interested in advancing fair housing awareness. Whether through events, conversations, or shared programming, collaboration strengthens our collective impact.

We are also currently scheduling Fair Housing trainings for Fair Housing Month and beyond. Trainings can be tailored to your audience and may include topics such as fair housing basics, reasonable accommodations and modifications, disability rights, vouchers, and preventing discrimination before it happens.

If you're interested in partnering with us or hosting a fair housing training, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us at: [info@fhcmm.org](mailto:info@fhcmm.org)  
[Request online here](#)

Together, we can ensure fair housing principles are understood, practiced, and protected in our community.



## Get Involved

Volunteer with us, host a training, or become a [Fair Housing Tester](#). Learn more at [www.fhcmm.org/events](http://www.fhcmm.org/events)



# MYTHS VS FACTS

## Fair Housing Myth Buster

Each month, we'll tackle a common myth or misconception about fair housing laws.

### This Month's Myth:

Housing discrimination is a thing of the past. It doesn't exist anymore.

### FACT:

Discriminatory housing practices still impact communities today, making fair housing enforcement as necessary now as it was in 1968.

**THE RENT IS COVERED  
BUT THE DOOR  
IS STILL CLOSED**

- When the rent is covered but calls go unanswered...
- When emails are ignored...
- When availability suddenly changes...
- When notifications are non-existent...

**Something isn't right.  
You deserve equal access to housing.**

If you believe you've experienced housing discrimination, contact the Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis.  
901-538-7700  
[fhcmm.org](http://fhcmm.org)

The City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development is a Partner in this program.

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[Report  
Discrimination](#)

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Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis  
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