



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**Date:** November 22, 2013

**To:** Thomas Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Constance Stancil, Director, Neighborhood Improvement Services  
**Subject:** **Department Response to Council**

The Human Relations Division of the Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Department enforces local, state and federal laws, ordinances, policies, procedures, and regulations dealing with discrimination in fair housing. Under the City of Durham Fair Housing Ordinance and the Federal Fair Housing Act, it is illegal to discriminate in housing in the following protected classes/categories: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental handicap or familial status (families with children).

The Division investigated 29 formal cases of housing discrimination from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 and the breakdown by protected classes is as follows:

- National Origin (Hispanics-Latinos)-12
- Disability -12
- Race -9
- Familial Status – 4
- Sex – 3

During the relevant time period, most cases were filed alleging discrimination under national origin and disability. It is important to note that persons may file alleging discrimination in more than one category and this is why the total breakdown exceeds 29.

It is important to note that over 92% of the complaints were conciliated and this means that the landlord, property manager, owner, realtor, broker, etc. and the complainant agreed to sign a conciliation agreement with the Department and HUD. This agreement outlines what the Respondent will do or has done to resolve the issues outlined in the complaint.

Fair housing outreach is conducted at multiple downtown agencies on a weekly basis and during partnership events and programs. Plans are underway to do additional outreach and training to neighborhood associations, homeowner associations and other agencies to further promote fair housing throughout the City of Durham.