

Ohio Civil Rights Commission

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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO ISSUE COMPLAINT AGAINST AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE FOR INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION

Columbus, OH (May 26, 2005) - The Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) will issue a formal complaint against American Family Insurance Company at its public meeting held in Columbus, Ohio. After a charge of discrimination was filed by a Toledo resident, the OCRC conducted an investigation and found that American Family Insurance's policies resulted in a discriminatory impact upon older, inner city and predominantly minority neighborhoods.

"The Ohio Civil Rights Commission meets with various community groups throughout the state to discuss the cross cutting issues affecting Ohio citizens. And we've found that discriminatory insurance practices and predatory lending are some of Ohio's biggest challenges" said G. Michael Payton, Executive Director of the OCRC. "The insurance industry must be reminded that everyone should be given the same opportunity for replacement cost insurance whether they are in an inner city or a rural area. Our state has more minority and immigrant communities than ever, all pursuing the American dream of home ownership. The Commission will continue our efforts to ensure that all people are given that access."

Mr. Eric Hawthorne of Toledo brought a charge of discrimination against American Family Insurance and its agents alleging that the insurance company engaged in discriminatory insurance practices when it changed Mr. Hawthorne's homeowners' insurance policy from a replacement cost policy to an actual cash value policy without his consent. And that continued requests that his insurance be changed back to a full replacement cost policy had been ignored.

The OCRC receives and investigates charges of discrimination in employment, housing, credit and higher education on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, country of national origin age, ancestry, disability and families with children.

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Ohio Civil Rights Commission
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