

Rodriguez, Charlotte

From: Elmer, Linda
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 4:04 PM
To: Rodriguez, Charlotte
Subject: FW: Proposed legislation by State Rep. Marlin Schneider
Attachments: Bill (01.21.09).pdf; Letter Seeking Support (01.21.09).pdf

Please add this to 080255.
Thanks -

From: Wood, Brenda
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 2:39 PM
To: Elmer, Linda; Hamilton, Ashanti
Subject: FW: Proposed legislation by State Rep. Marlin Schneider

We may need to discuss this legislation on Monday. I'll let you know for sure by Wednesday.

LRB 0747/1 Prohibiting discrimination in housing because of arrest or conviction record and making it a Class 1 felony to discriminate based on arrest or conviction record.

From: Stephens, Adam
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 10:09 AM
To: Wood, Brenda
Subject: FW: Proposed legislation by State Rep. Marlin Schneider

Brenda:
I'm forwarding this email regarding the issue we discussed last week. This bill would affect a critical nuisance abatement measure regularly suggested by MPD, DNS and our community prosecutors to landlords: that their tenants are screened and informed that the owner will not permit the rental property to be misused by drug dealers, etc.

From my point of view, there are two big problems with this bill:
1.) If landlords can't consider a criminal history older than three years, the worst type of drug dealers/gang members who go to prison for three or more years would be automatically protected from landlords considering their criminal history the day they are released from prison; and,
2.) I fear that this would have a chilling affect on landlords who would just stop screening altogether to avoid the risk of possibly committing a felony.

Let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Adam

Adam B. Stephens
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From: Tristan Pettit [mailto:tpettit@PETRIESTOCKING.COM]

1/29/2009

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 10:33 AM
To: Stephens, Adam; Stephens, Adam
Subject: Proposed legislation by State Rep. Marlin Schneider

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Adam -- I hope that you are doing well and that you had an enjoyable holiday season.

I am writing to you on behalf of the AASEW.

I wanted to insure that you were aware of a bill that was recently brought by State Rep. Marlin Schneider. Suffice it to say that if this bill is passed it will make it a felony for a landlord to deny a prospective applicant based on that applicant's arrest or conviction record as long as that arrest/conviction occurred more than 3 years prior to the rental application being submitted to the landlord. In essence, the bill would be creating 2 additional "protected classes" under the fair housing statutes - arrest record and conviction record.

As I believe you are aware, State Rep. Schneider is the same individual that sponsored a bill in 2008 trying to limit access of CCAP - which had it been passed would have precluded landlords from being able to use CCAP to screen rental applicants.

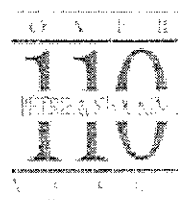
I am bringing this bill to your attention - and hope that you will alert Grant to it as well -- as I see this bill seriously hindering the work that you are doing with regard to nuisance properties. If this bill is passed, landlords would be required to rent to serious drug-related felons as long as their arrest was more than 3 years ago. As you well know, most criminals that have been convicted of a felony have not yet been paroled within 3 years of their arrest. Under this bill, the day that a convicted drug dealer would be released back into society I would be legally obligated to rent to him if he applied (subject to him being disqualified under any of my other screening criteria) or else risk being arrested and charged as a felon myself.

The AASEW would welcome the City Attorney's Office's support in defeating this proposed bill and proactively attempting to prevent any new "protected classes" being created based on a persons arrest or criminal conviction.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thanks

T



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1/29/2009