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News Release

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Durham Hosts Fair Housing Forum October 19

Forum is Free & Open to the Public; Registration Required

DURHAM, N.C. – Housing providers and disability advocates interested in learning more about federal and local fair housing laws should mark their calendars now to attend next month's [2016 Durham Fair Housing Forum](#).

Co-sponsored by the City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department Human Relations Division and Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, this forum is set for Wednesday, October 19 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at [The Forest at Duke](#), located at 2701 Pickett Road, Durham.

This forum is designed to educate and enlighten housing providers, builders, architects, healthcare providers, and disability advocates on federal and local fair housing laws and the protections they afford to persons with disabilities. Topics will include reasonable accommodations and modifications, construction and design mandates, and universal design.

Presenters include Jeff Dillman from the [Fair Housing Project of Legal Aid of North Carolina](#), Denene Hinton from [Alliance Behavioral Healthcare](#), Yasmin Farahi from [Disability Rights North Carolina](#), and Richard Duncan from [R.L. Mace Universal Design Institute](#). The keynote address will be delivered by Kim Lan Grout, founder of the [Redefining Disabled Project](#).

The forum is free and open to the public, but [registration](#) is mandatory as space is limited. For more information contact Human Relations Manager James E. Davis, Jr. by [email](#) or at (919) 560-1647 ext. 34277.

About the City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department Human Relations Division

The [Neighborhood Improvement Services Department](#) works to preserve and improve quality of life conditions for Durham residents, and to encourage active participation in neighborhood redevelopment and public policy and decision-making dialogue. The department's [Human Relations Division](#) strives to improve race and human relations in the City by working to eliminate housing discrimination and by prioritizing community outreach and educational activities to meet the needs of Durham's residents. The division is responsible for enforcement of the City of Durham Fair Housing Ordinance and the federal Fair Housing Act. HUD provides funding annually for the Division to investigate housing complaints in the City of Durham that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (gender), religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap or familial status (families with children). The Human Relations Division also provides oversight to the City of Durham [Human Relations Commission](#), which is comprised of Durham residents who meet monthly to work on activities designed to improve human relations and promote harmony throughout Durham.

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