

BALTIMORE NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.  
RM. 1117-ONE CHARLES CENTER  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

MEMO

TO: All Organizations Interested in Fair Housing  
FROM: George B. Laurent, Executive Director of BNI  
RE: A Meeting in Annapolis on Saturday, April 29th to Consider  
the Formation of a Leadership Council for Fair Housing for  
the State of Maryland.

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TIME: 10:00 A.M. - 12:45 P.M. ---1:15 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. if necessary  
PLACE: The House Judiciary Room (H8) located on the ground floor of  
the State House.

Purpose of the Leadership Council:

- 1) To coordinate and promote fair housing activities across  
the State of Maryland;
- 2) To sponsor a workshop conference once or twice a year to  
share ideas, encourage the formation of fair housing groups  
where needed, and hear experts from governmental agencies,  
American Friends, the National Committee Against Discrimina-  
tion in Housing, etc.

Those assembling in Annapolis on April 29th would decide if  
such a Council is needed, and if so, how it should operate. My thoughts  
however, are as follows:

A. Fair housing organizations, housing committees of human  
relations commissions, civil rights groups, social action  
committees of religious denominations, and similar groups  
would be invited to send a representative to the Council;

B. Ordinarily the Council would consist of representatives  
of organizations and not private individuals. However, there  
may be key individuals, in areas where there is no fair housing  
activity at present, who should be invited to be on the Council.  
These people would come on the Council with the understanding  
that they would assume responsibility for creating fair housing  
groups in their area;

C. The Council would not be a formal organization. A coordi-  
nating chairman would maintain the contact list and promote  
fair housing activity, calling upon the resources of associated  
groups as needed;

D. The Council as such would not make pronouncements or take public stands but would ask representative groups to do so. This avoids both the touchy problem of who speaks for whom and the impression that another civil rights organization has been created;

E. Meetings would be held to a minimum, would be carefully planned, and would hopefully be able to recommend concrete action on a statewide basis or in specific areas;

F. The Leadership Conference would not be directly affiliated with any group or government agency. It would call on the Maryland Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations as a consultant, consistent with the Commission's authority and ability.

Please try to have your group represented at this preliminary meeting. Decisions should not be made by only a few stalwarts.

Please send us names of officers of fair housing groups in your area that should be invited to this meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in Annapolis on April 29th.

GBL:s