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PATHWAY TO HOME OWNERSHIP: FAIR HOUSING SUMMIT

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Apr. 14, 2021 – The Birmingham Association of REALTORS® is recognizing Fair Housing Month this April by hosting a Fair Housing Summit, Friday, April 16, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. In partnership with the Birmingham City Council, this event will kick off the Magic City Classic. Participants can attend in-person or virtually through a live feed on the Birmingham City Council’s Facebook page.

Speakers for the Fair Housing Summit include:

- Marcus Brown - President of NAREB
- Tony Alvarez - Fair Housing Workgroup Chair
- Manisha Munikar - President of AREAA
- Patti Stone - BAR Board of Directors Chair
- Lila Hackett - Head of North Alabama Fair Housing Center
- Alexia Smokler - NAR’s Senior Policy Representative for Fair Housing

“April is Fair Housing Month, when we honor the struggle so many Americans have engaged in to secure equitable housing opportunity in the United States,” said Kelli Gunnells, 2021 BAR President. “That effort continues to this day, and the Birmingham Association of REALTORS® is proud to play a leading role in helping to secure diverse, inclusive communities throughout our region.”

The National Association of Realtors® has spent the past 15 months implementing its [Accountability, Culture Change, and Training fair housing action plan, or ACT! for short](#). As part of the initiative, NAR last summer unveiled an implicit bias training video for Realtors® and association staff, and a few months later rolled out an interactive training platform designed to better prepare agents to combat housing discrimination. [Fairhaven](#) is an immersive simulation where agents work against the clock to close four deals, confronting various scenarios where discrimination enters into the transaction.

Each April, Realtors® across the country observe the anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 with events designed to educate about housing discrimination and segregation, and to recommit to expanding equal access to housing. Visit [this link](#) to learn more about all of the nationwide Fair Housing initiatives developed by NAR.