



For Immediate Release

Leah Maddox, Equal Rights Center, 202.370.3227

lmaddox@equalrightscenter.org

Equal Rights Center Joins With Local Governments To Help Plan Sustainable Communities

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 20, 2010– This week, the [Equal Rights Center](#) (ERC) joined with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and a consortium of civic leaders and urban planners – including the Urban Institute, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and the D.C. Housing Authority – in an effort to design “sustainable communities” in the District and 6 surrounding counties.

“Community planning must include considerations of non-discrimination and social justice in order to ensure diverse and accessible communities,” said Don Kahl, ERC Executive Director. “The collaboration with MWCOG gives the ERC the opportunity to identify and address areas of potential discrimination before they occur.”

The Sustainable Communities Initiative is a regional based approach to community planning. Sustainable communities are designed to support affordable housing, job creation, active lifestyles, sustainable development, and transportation access.

[Read more](#) about regional collaboration in the greater D.C. area, or type the following URL into your browser:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/12/AR2010081207231.html>.

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About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Originally formed in 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. With members located in 33 states and the District of Columbia, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights, and access to public accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.