



For Planning Purposes

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**ERC to Release Report Documenting Discrimination Against
Voucher Holders in the District**

*Mayor Gray, DOJ Assistant Attorney General Perez to participate in 10th Annual
Fair Housing Symposium following press conference*

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 25, 2011 –This Thursday, April 28th, the Equal Rights Center (ERC)—a national civil rights non-profit organization—will be joined by Gustavo Velasquez, Director of the D.C. Office of Human Rights to release a new report documenting rates of discrimination against voucher holders in D.C. based on an expansive investigation conducted by the ERC.

Under the D.C. Human Rights Act, District landlords and property managers are prohibited from discriminating against an individual because he or she wants to pay rent with various types of funds, including government subsidies such as Housing Choice Vouchers. The report, *Still in Search of Decent Housing*, was issued as a follow up to a 2005 ERC report that documented a staggering 61% rate of discrimination against voucher holders in the District.

Following the press conference, in recognition of National Fair Housing Month, the D.C.'s 10th Annual Fair Housing Symposium will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray** will deliver opening remarks and **Tom Perez**, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, will deliver the keynote address.

WHO: **Donald Kahl**, Executive Director, Equal Rights Center
Gustavo Velasquez, Director, D.C. Office of Human Rights

WHEN: **April 28, 2010, 9:00am**
***10th Annual Fair Housing Symposium to follow*
10:15- Mayor Gray delivers opening
1:00- Assistant Attorney General Tom Perez delivers keynote

WHERE: **True Reformer Building at 1200 U Street, NW**

To RSVP or request more information about the report and/or 10th Annual Fair Housing Symposium, contact Ashley White at awhite@equalrightscenter.org or (202) 370-3204.

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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.