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## **Civil Rights Organizations File Housing Discrimination Complaint Against Deutsche Bank in DC, Chicago, Memphis**

\*\*\*\*News Conference Call Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am EST; 10:00 am CST\*\*\*\*

Please [click here](#) to register for the news conference

On Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and three of its member organizations will hold an online news conference/webinar to announce a federal housing discrimination complaint against Deutsche Bank. This complaint, which will be filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is a result of an undercover investigation into how Deutsche Bank is failing to maintain and market foreclosed homes it owns in African-American and Latino neighborhoods in Chicago, Memphis, and, Washington, DC.

NFHA's investigation of bank-owned homes in major U.S. cities nationwide alleges a striking pattern of discrimination in the treatment of REO properties, where banks maintain and market foreclosed properties in white communities in a far superior manner to foreclosed properties in communities of color.

In June 2013, Deutsche Bank settled a lawsuit with the City of Los Angeles, which accused the bank of allowing hundreds of foreclosed properties to reach slum conditions, leading to the destabilization of communities. NFHA has found that in spite of the LA lawsuit and settlement, Deutsche Bank continues its detrimental and discriminatory practices in communities of color in other many other cities.

**WHAT:** News conference to discuss findings of an investigation into Deutsche Bank's alleged discriminatory treatment of REO properties in Chicago, Memphis, and, Washington, DC.

**WHO:** **Shanna L. Smith**, President and CEO, National Fair Housing Alliance (DC)  
**Steve Dane**, Partner, Relman, Dane, & Colfax LLC  
**John Petruszak**, Executive Director, South Suburban Housing Center (Chicago)  
**Gail Schechter**, Executive Director, Open Communities (Metropolitan Chicago)  
**Anne Houghtaling**, Executive Director, HOPE Fair Housing Center (Chicago)

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am EST, 10:00 am CST

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### **About Open Communities**

Founded by local activists in 1972, Open Communities' mission is to educate, advocate and organize to promote just and inclusive communities in north suburban Chicago. Its membership includes residents, congregations and civic organizations. A not-for-profit organization, its free and confidential services include investigating fair housing discrimination and landlord/tenant complaints, foreclosure and predatory lending counseling and prevention, Homesharing, immigrant leadership development, education justice advocacy, fair housing education and affordable housing advocacy, and grassroots organizing. Formerly known as The Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs, Open Communities expanded its mission and changed its name in 2012.