



Hartford Courant Letters Editor
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VIA EMAIL

RE: Segregation is not an Accident

Dear Hartford Courant Letters Editor:

Your June 5 editorial “The George Floyd protests are being seen as a turning point, but nothing will be solved until we admit that Connecticut is still a deeply segregated state” raises important issues.

Segregation “is not the unintended consequence of individual choices and of otherwise well-meaning law or regulation but of unhidden public policy that explicitly segregated every metropolitan area in the United States.” (Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*.) Intentional government actions excluded Black families and other communities of color from living in many affluent neighborhoods in Connecticut, depriving those families the opportunity to build intergenerational wealth. Today, affluent segregated towns perpetuate this historical segregation by obstructing affordable housing development in their communities.

The harm inflicted by systemic racism and anti-Black prejudice isn’t limited to the police officers who brutally murdered George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. It includes real estate agents steering people away from affluent neighborhoods based on their skin color, and government’s failure to provide adequate rental relief to communities of color so deeply and disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In 2019 alone, the Connecticut Fair Housing Center investigated more than 700 complaints of housing discrimination, and the Center’s call volume has tripled during the pandemic.

Combatting segregation and systemic racism requires affirmative steps by individuals and government. You can report housing discrimination by phone at (860) 247-4400 or email to info@ctfairhousing.org.

The Staff of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center