

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OPEN COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Civ. Action No. 1:17-cv-02192
)	
BEN CARSON, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

DECLARATION OF AARON SANTA ANNA

I, Aaron Santa Anna, do declare the following under penalty of perjury:

1. I currently serve as Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”). I have served in this capacity since October 2000. The office that I supervise is the only HUD office internally authorized to submit documents to the Office of the Federal Register for publication in the Federal Register. As a result, in my capacity as Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, I have personal knowledge of all HUD documents intended for publication in the Federal Register. I make the following statements based on my personal knowledge or information known to me in my capacity as Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, in the Office of General Counsel.
2. On or about November 21, 2017, I was informed that the Office of Policy Development & Research sought to publish a notice in the Federal Register that would request public comment on HUD Secretary Ben Carson's August 10, 2017, determination to temporarily suspend the mandatory use of Small Area Fair Market Rents (SAFMRs). As a result, my office established a docket for the notice (FR-6070) and began vetting a draft notice through the HUD offices having an interest in the notice. My office also prepared the final draft for the signature of General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Dominique Blom, Office of Public and Indian Housing.

3. As drafted, the Federal Register notice will invite interested persons, for a period of 30 days following publication of the notice, to submit comments on HUD's August 10, 2017, determination to temporarily suspend the mandatory use of SAFMRs. Comments can be submitted by mail to the Regulations Division, 451 7th Street SW., Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410-0500, or electronically through the Federal Rulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. All properly submitted comments will be available for inspection and downloading.
4. It is my belief that the internal vetting and processing for the notice requesting public comment on Secretary Carson's August 10, 2017, SAFMR determination will be complete and the notice ready to submit to the Office of the Federal Register for publication during the first week of December 2017. Publication in the Federal Register generally occurs within three-to-four days following HUD's submission of the document.

Executed on:

12-1-2017



Aaron Santa Anna