

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General



ATTORNEY GENERAL
KARL A. RACINE

Public Interest Division

November 15, 2019

Brian Donnellan
President & CEO
Bright MLS
9707 Key West Avenue
Suite 200
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Donnellan:

The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia's Civil Rights Section (CRS) has learned that there have been several rental properties listed through Bright MLS Homes in the District stating that the landlord does not accept rental payments through Section 8 or other forms of housing assistance. Attached are a few such listings.

The District of Columbia Human Rights Act, D.C. Code § 2-1402.21, prohibits discrimination in housing based on an individual's source of income, including the use of housing vouchers. Refusing to accept Section 8 vouchers as a rental payment is a facial violation of the statute, as is posting an advertisement stating that a landlord does not accept vouchers.

Ensuring that voucher recipients have access to high-quality housing throughout the District is a significant priority for CRS. We would thus like to set up a meeting to discuss how Bright MLS can help ensure that advertisements violating the prohibition on source-of-income discrimination do not circulate through Bright MLS.

We successfully and cooperatively worked with other companies, such as the owner of Apartments.com, to filter discriminatory advertisements and would welcome the opportunity to work with Bright MLS in a similar fashion. Attached is a press release describing our work with Apartments.com.

Please contact Assistant Attorney General Vikram Swaruup at vikram.swaruup@dc.gov or at (202) 724-6533 to set up a meeting or if you have any

questions related to this request. Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

KARL A. RACINE
Attorney General

By:



VIKRAM SWAARUP
Assistant Attorney General