



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Allan Lazo to Serve as Fair Housing Council of Oregon's New Executive Director

Portland, OR, February 2, 2016 – The Fair Housing Council of Oregon is pleased to announce that, after a national search, Allan Lazo has been hired to serve as executive director, effective May 4, 2016.

“We have been impressed with Allan as a volunteer helping to lead our bus tours these past three years, and he continued to impress us at every stage of our recruitment process,” said FHCO Board President, LeRoy Patton. “He has the leadership and management acumen we sought, and his passion for fair housing work is compelling. He also brings excellent collaboration skills, which we’re confident he’ll employ to help FHCO build more and stronger partnerships.”

Lazo has been the owner of Lazo Tax Service, a local small business, since 2002. He brings exceptional skills in organizational development and leadership, as well as financial management. Additionally, he has a demonstrated track record in civic engagement and social justice, having served on a variety of commissions and committees in Portland and Gresham, including Portland’s Human Rights Commission for the past five years, chairing the commission for one year starting in October, 2011. Through his current volunteer and consulting work, which has included work with Multnomah County, he has served as an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community. He’s also been a volunteer co-facilitator for the City of Portland’s “Intergroup Dialogues on Race and Racism.”

“I am excited about, and grateful for, the opportunity to help lead FHCO in our work to end housing discrimination through our education and enforcement programs. I especially am looking forward to lending the voice of fair housing to the wide-ranging solutions needed to end the current housing crisis in our communities, locally and throughout the state of Oregon,” said Lazo.

Outgoing executive director, Pegge McGuire, who successfully served in the role for 10 years, enthusiastically endorsed Lazo as her successor. “I couldn’t be more pleased about Allan’s new role with FHCO. He has been a longtime friend and supporter of the agency. I have always appreciated Allan’s warmth, integrity, wisdom, and passion for fair housing. I am grateful that FHCO is in such capable hands.”

Kathy Kniep, Interim Executive Director, will stay with the organization until Lazo starts.

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The Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO) is a nonprofit civil rights organization driven to eliminate illegal housing discrimination through enforcement and education across Oregon. We promote equal access to housing by providing education, outreach, technical assistance, and enforcement opportunities specifically related to federal, state, and local fair housing laws. These laws protect against illegal housing discrimination based on “protected class status” in any housing transaction and any housing situation.

For more information on FHCO, visit www.fhco.org.