



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION



*Message from Jaimie Ross,
President & CEO of the Florida Housing Coalition*

Racism is on all our minds.

The history of housing is a history of racism; deed restrictions that expressly prohibited non-whites from buying a home, redlining, and exclusion from federal lending programs are just a few of the easily verifiable facts about the racism that haunts us. And the history of racism in housing is alive and well today. We see it regularly in the Not in My Backyard (NIMBY) opposition to affordable housing. Vociferous objections to a development intended to serve lower-income households are cloaked in disingenuous arguments about additional traffic or overcrowded schools. When your professional life is all about affordable housing its impossible to ignore the consequences of systemic racism. It is time that we talk openly about the racism inherent in so many of our systems. The disproportionate impact of the pandemic on people of color stems from the disproportionate impact of poverty on people of color. The convergence of the two at this time in history evokes for me a quote attributed to Nedra Ruiz that has been hanging on my living room wall since 1985, “At the table of peace there will be bread and justice”.

#

