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Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lieutenant Governor

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**  
**ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, MA 02108-1518**



Malcolm S. Medley, Chairman  
and Commissioner

Sunila Thomas-George  
Commissioner

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MCAD TO LAUNCH INVESTIGATION INTO NEW BEDFORD**  
**ADVERTISEMENT OF "CAUCASIAN ONLY" LAND SALE**

Boston, MA - The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination today announced that it will launch an investigation into a land sale advertisement which recently appeared in the New Bedford Standard Times. The ad, which was allegedly placed by a local law firm, included restrictive language that "[t]he said land shall not be sold, leased or rented to any person other than of the Caucasian race or to any entity of which any person other than of said race shall be a member, stockholder, officer or director." In addition to the MCAD's own initiated complaint, at least one other person has filed a complaint of discrimination with the agency.

"Such restrictive covenants have long been deemed unlawful and unenforceable under Massachusetts statute, and conveyance of any such deed is expressly prohibited under Massachusetts anti-discrimination law," said MCAD Chairman and Commissioner, Malcolm S. Medley. "Advertising such a sale may also be unlawful under the statute. Our obligation is to investigate this matter to determine whether a violation of law has occurred."

The MCAD will pursue both its own investigation and the complaint filed by the New Bedford resident who filed a separate complaint about the ad. "Anyone who is aggrieved by a discriminatory act is invited to file a complaint with the Commission," said MCAD New Bedford Investigator Andre Silva. "The Commission will investigate those complaints."

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) is the state's statutory civil rights law enforcement agency. The Commission has offices in Boston, Springfield, Worcester, and New Bedford.

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