Thank you for the opportunity to present comments.

I moved to Nashua NH from St. Louis in 1968 to work as an engineer at Sanders Associates. Nashua and Manchester were successfully recovering from the mass migration of the textile industry to the South where costs were lower. This success was due to smart, hard work from many people and good leadership. Nashua has roughly doubled in population and been one of the best places to live in the country, including one of the safest places, since then. St. Louis was a city of about 800,000 people then and the Arch was just completed but there were signs of decay. Pruitt Igoe (see below) was only about 10 years old but already in serious trouble and I know from personal experience that it was dangerous to get close to it. Extremely poor planning and leadership since then has resulted in a poverty and crime stricken city of only about 300,000 people. East St. Louis, across the Mississippi, has done even worse and gone from about 90,000 people to about 20,000. The mainstream media does not discuss these things.

Unfortunately many cities have followed the St. Louis example in the last fifty years and they have had similar results. The cities of NH and the state have to be careful not to be included in that failure. We have to be strict about treating every person as an individual, judged by their actions and contributions to society and not by race or gender. A simple concept that needs concentration and commitment to carry out but alternatives lead to failure. The Commission needs to make that clear and enforce it. It would be a dangerous step in the wrong direction to make this complicated to satisfy political views that have been proven to fail time and again. I hope you succeed because good places to live in America are becoming scarce.

Sincerely,
Bill Zebuhr
603 888 0953