



Ms. Tracy Jan
Washington Post
1301 K. St. NW
Washington, DC 20071

March 29, 2022

Dear Ms. Jan,

Thank you for bringing the issue of appraisal bias adversely impacting minority communities to the forefront of the readers of the Washington Post. The Juanita C. Grant Foundation has been working with local and national organizations on this issue for past 5 years and with stories like yours, regarding the economic impact on communities of color and especially for older populations that are living on fixed incomes.

The Foundation has been trying to alarm policymakers, businesses, and elected officials on the number of older adults that are unable to build generational wealth or plan accurately for retirement when their most valuable asset, their home is severely undervalued. There is a growing number of older adults that are on the borderline of poverty or in poverty due to early retirement or being forced out of the workplace. Home insecurity is a real issue for older adults that have had to use their savings or home equity to pay for medical bills, support grandchildren or suffered the loss of a spouse.

The Foundation is working with older adults on returning to work or remaining in the work culture to management home, car, and medical expenses. Chronic undervaluing of homes in black and brown communities creates a rippling effect of lowering the desirability of moving to or remaining in those communities. This shifting destabilizes neighborhoods through loss of tax revenue and uneven allocations to maintain schools, police, and roads. We are advocating for policymakers, the housing industry and community activists to address this insidious practice in communities of color to prevent another generation from leveraging resources their parents worked to secure for the family's future.

Thank you again for bringing this issue to the attention of many who were not aware, but perhaps, can now better understand the seriousness of this issue and the importance of acting now. It would be a travesty if we as a community and a country don't get ahead of inequity of appraisal bias that impacts millions of minority families nationwide.

Sincerely,

S. Orlene Grant
President and CEO