**Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter Public Statement**

The Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is deeply disturbed by the recent findings of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that the Decatur Housing Authority maintained discriminatory housing practices in its senior properties.  Elderly African American applicants who applied for housing at the more desirable properties (the Towers) were repeatedly skipped over and placed on the wait list even though they were next in line to receive a unit. African American applicants were also steered to less desirable units at one of the housing authority’s racially and ethnically concentrated properties (Westgate Gardens).   Residents of Westgate Gardens do not have the same amenities provided to the residents of the Towers, which include walking trails, waterfront views, libraries, community kitchens, pianos and outdoor patios.  In addition, they were denied social activities so important to the wellbeing of our seniors.

These practices are in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act and our elderly African American citizens deserve better.

We understand that the Department of Housing and Urban Development reached a settlement with the Decatur Housing Authority to redress the issue of disparate treatment against its African American residents. "Beyond a Settlement, the members of Central North Alabama Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta call for more action. We demand accountability and control to correct the culture of discrimination. The citizens of this city deserve full transparency from the

Decatur Housing Authority, the Decatur Housing Authority Board, and the Mayor’s Office regarding the findings of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

in a public hearing set for Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 6:30pm at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion, Decatur, Alabama.