

RISE: YOUR OWN YARD, YOUR OWN DRIVEWAY, YOUR OWN HOME; ALL PART OF THE AMERICAN DREAM. I'M RISE JILL MILLER.

ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT U.S. CENSUS DATA, HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES ARE AT THE SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD. AND, WITH MORTGAGE RATES AND HOUSING COSTS STILL NEAR HISTORIC LOWS, NOW MAY BE THE PERFECT TIME TO PURCHASE A HOME.

ANDRE BROOKS, REGIONAL SALES MANAGER, WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, HAS A FEW TIPS ON HOMEOWNERSHIP:

ANDRE: THOUGH QUALIFICATIONS MAY BE MORE STRICT THAN A FEW YEARS AGO, CONSUMERS ARE STILL GETTING APPROVED FOR MORTGAGE LOANS EVERY DAY. SO DON'T BE DISCOURAGED – BE PREPARED.

RISE: IS THERE ANYTHING WE NEED TO HELP US GET APPROVED FOR A MORTGAGE?

ANDRE: THERE ARE SOME EASY STEPS TO HELP YOU TOWARDS A NEW HOME. FIRST, BE SURE YOUR CREDIT IS IN GOOD STANDING, AND TAKE ACTION TO RESTORE IT IF NECESSARY. SAVE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN TOWARD A DOWN PAYMENT, EVEN IF TWENTY PERCENT IS OUT OF REACH. THEN, DECREASE YOUR DEBT, AND FOCUS ON BUILDING CASH RESERVES.

RISE: FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOMEOWNERSHIP, VISIT WELLS FARGO DOT COM SLASH MORTGAGE. I'M RISE JILL MILLER.