

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-38

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 4, 2021

To celebrate and recognize the 53rd Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, affirming the United States' commitment to fair and equal access to housing, and to recognize April as Fair Housing Month.

WHEREAS, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act into law in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.;

WHEREAS, the fight for fair housing was a central piece of the civil rights movement as African Americans experienced discrimination in housing throughout the United States;

WHEREAS, prior to the Fair Housing Act, housing segregation was reenforced by federal and local governments through segregated public housing, enforcing racial covenants, choosing to support home ownership in white communities, and zoning restrictions;

WHEREAS, these practices excluded African Americans from housing stability and economic mobility, and continue to have the effect of segregated and neglected communities of color and low homeownership rates for African Americans;

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act guarantees equal housing opportunities for all people and makes it illegal to refuse to sell or rent a home, refuse to finance, deny or limit services, or impose different terms and conditions based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, family status, or disability;

WHEREAS, in the District of Columbia, the Office of Human Rights works with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to investigate complaints of housing discrimination;

WHEREAS, the Office of Human Rights enforces the DC Human Rights Act, one of the most progressive non-discrimination laws in the country, which prohibits discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and educational institutions for 21 protected traits;

WHEREAS, housing discrimination continues today and can take many forms, including a landlord who refuses to make reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability, source

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of income discrimination that limits a family's housing options, or a realtor who steers a Black family toward homes only in certain neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, access to housing remains unequal, and the United States and the District still have work to do to eliminate discrimination and fully implement the Fair Housing Act to further fair housing;

WHEREAS, April is recognized as Fair Housing Month, providing an opportunity to commemorate the Fair Housing Act, educate the public about their rights and responsibilities under the Act, and continue to fight for desegregation and the promise of fair housing for all.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "District of Columbia Fair Housing Month Recognition Resolution of 2021".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia celebrates the Fair Housing Act and recognizes the work that remains to ensure equal access to fair housing.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.