

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-168

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 5, 2022

To celebrate and recognize the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, affirming the United States' commitment to fair and equal access to housing by prohibiting discrimination based on race or color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability status; and to recognize the month of 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., who was a large proponent in the fight for fair housing, and stands as the final momentous legislative achievement of the Civil Rights Movement;

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act was intended as a follow-up to the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964 which was expanded to address racial discrimination in housing;

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, despite several major Supreme Court decisions which outlawed the exclusion of African Americans or other minorities from certain sections of cities, race-based housing patterns were still prevalent in the late 1960s;

WHEREAS, while many African American and Hispanic members of the armed forces fought and died in the Vietnam War, their respective families struggled with renting or purchasing homes in certain residential areas due to their race or national origin;

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting or buying a home, retaining a mortgage, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, family status, or disability status;

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is the federal agency responsible for administering the Fair Housing Act and whose Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity receives and investigates complaints regarding housing discrimination;

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WHEREAS, despite the historic nature of the Fair Housing Act, housing segregation and discrimination persisted in many areas of the United States in the years that followed the passage of the bill but still continues today;

WHEREAS, housing discrimination continues to exist in many forms, including a landlord who refuses to make reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability, source 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, unequal access to housing contributes to disparities in wealth, education, economic mobility and other critical factors;

WHEREAS, the United States and the District still have work to do to eliminate discrimination and fully implement the Fair Housing Act to further fair and equal 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 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 2022".

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.