

INTRODUCED: 4/1/2024

REFERRED TO: Committee of the Whole

SPONSOR: Councilor Nielsen

DIGEST: honors Fair Housing Month

SOURCE:

Initiated by: Councilor Nielsen

Drafted by: Kimberly Nance, Council Relations Liaison

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION:

Subject to approval or veto by Mayor

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Adoption and approvals

GENERAL COUNSEL APPROVAL: Ms. Deborah M. PerceDate: March 28, 2024

CITY-COUNTY SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. , 2024

A SPECIAL RESOLUTION honoring Fair Housing Month.

WHEREAS, April, 2024, marks the 56th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in the rental, sale, financing, insuring, or zoning of housing based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, and familial status. The federal law seeks to provide equal housing opportunities, to affirmatively further housing choices, to eliminate legal barriers to equal housing, and to emphasize equal housing as a fundamental human right for all; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) works to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education, and outreach. Each April, during Fair Housing Month, the FHCCI hosts its annual conference along with other activities and events to spread awareness of fair housing laws; and

WHEREAS, historic patterns of segregation and discrimination in housing exist not only nationwide, but also here in Marion County. Many persons facing discrimination do not feel safe to report their experiences and struggles. Therefore, the magnitude of segregation and discrimination in housing is greater than what data show; and

WHEREAS, members of protected classes are increasingly and disproportionately more at risk to displacement, rental housing discrimination, poor quality housing, and barriers to opportunity due to rising home ownership, rental housing costs, and imbalanced consumer protections laws; and

WHEREAS, homeownership is the primary means for most Americans to build generational wealth, yet the homeownership gap between white Americans and Americans of color is as large as it was when the federal Fair Housing Act was passed; and

WHEREAS, renters in Marion County are challenged by the lack of affordable and accessible housing options, substandard housing conditions, and lack of equality in their rights; and

WHEREAS, equal access to housing is a vital component to our city, as housing is critical to family and community health and stability as too many residents face barriers in accessing a quality education and health care, finding nutritious and affordable food, and having stable employment with high quality transportation options simply due to where they live; now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION 1: The Indianapolis City-County Council proclaims April as Fair Housing Month in Indianapolis.

SECTION 2: The Council is committed to building an even more inclusive community by ensuring all neighbors have access to safe, clean, affordable and fair housing and preventing the negative impact that discrimination, in all its forms, has on all citizens of Indianapolis and Marion County.

SECTION 3: The Council expresses appreciation and gratitude to the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana and other housing advocates for their commitment to promoting fair housing for all citizens in our city and state.

SECTION 4: The Mayor is invited to join in this resolution by affixing his signature hereto.

SECTION 5: This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and compliance with IC 36-3-4-14.

The foregoing was passed by the City-County Council this ____ day of _____, 2024, at ____ p.m.

ATTEST:

Vop Osili
President, City-County Council

Yulonda Winfield
Clerk, City-County Council

Presented by me to the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Yulonda Winfield
Clerk, City-County Council

Approved and signed by me this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Joseph H. Hogsett, Mayor