



City of Apache Junction

Development Services Department



DATE: April 4, 2018

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Bryant Powell, City Manager
Larry Kirch, Development Services Director

FROM: Heather Patel, Grants Administrator

SUBJECT: Proclamation designating the month of April as “Fair Housing Month”

REQUEST

Staff respectfully requests the city council proclaim April 2018 as Fair Housing Month.

This proclamation will fulfill one of the city’s requirements as a recipient of grant funds from the Arizona Department of Housing.

BACKGROUND

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing was first included in the Fair Housing Act of 1964, which, in Title VI, prohibited discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, and national origin.

This Act also required that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) administer its programs including the Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) program in a manner that affirmatively promotes fair housing.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 covered housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Title VIII was amended in 1988 by the Fair Housing Act which added two categories of protected persons from housing discrimination: 1) families with children (anyone under 18); and 2) individuals with disabilities.

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, in Section 104, specifically states that communities shall affirmatively further fair housing. HUD regulations require that the state CDBG program affirmatively further fair housing. This Act requires each community to certify that it will affirmatively further fair housing.

When a community is involved in the provision of housing or housing services, whether funded through CDBG or with other public funds, it must ensure that such programs are designed and implemented in a non-discriminatory way.

DISCUSSION

The Arizona Department of Housing (“ADOH”), the regulatory agency, has indicated each community must complete the minimum requirements to further fair housing. These minimum requirements include:

- 1) Adopt a fair housing proclamation or resolution;
- 2) Display a fair housing poster in at least one public area of the community’s administration building/office year round; and
- 3) Undertake at least one additional action specifically designed to further fair housing and/or educate the public about fair housing laws.

Currently, the city displays an English and Spanish fair housing poster in the lobby of the development services department; the state fair housing brochure is made available in the development services department lobby; information is posted on the city’s website; a press release is sent out; and staff attends a local/regional training relating to fair housing.

If a declaration of Fair Housing Month is not adopted, the city will be in violation of the laws as identified above and the regulations set forth by HUD and ADOH, thus jeopardizing future funding through CDBG.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the city council declare April 2018 as Fair Housing Month.

ACTION REQUIRED

The following actions are required:

- 1) The council adopt the proclamation declaring April 2018 as Fair Housing Month; and
- 2) The mayor shall read the Proclamation aloud during the April 17, 2018 council meeting.

Attachment 1: 2018 Fair Housing Proclamation