

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2021 TO BE FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN MONTPELIER

WHEREAS, the Federal Fair Housing Act was passed in April 1968, to eliminate discrimination in housing based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, and sex, and to further housing choice for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Fair Housing Act was amended in 1988, to also protect families with children and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is now celebrated as Fair Housing Month both nationally and locally; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing struggle for dignity and opportunity for all in housing is not the exclusive province of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Vermont passed the Vermont Fair Housing Act in 1985 to complement the Federal Fair Housing Act and combat housing discrimination in Vermont; and

WHEREAS, vigorous local efforts to combat discrimination and expand housing opportunities are effective; and

WHEREAS, Montpelier's citizens need equal opportunities to safe, decent, and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS the City of Montpelier, its Mayor, and its Council are committed to making Montpelier a diverse and inclusive community for all who choose to make their homes here; and

WHEREAS, the City of Montpelier supports the efforts of fair housing organizations, concerned citizens, and the housing and land use industries to achieve fair housing choice in Montpelier and to promote understanding of the Fair Housing Act; and

WHEREAS, illegal barriers, no matter how subtle, to equal opportunity in housing for some diminish the rights of all; and

WHEREAS, inclusive, welcoming, and affordable communities promote diversity and a climate conducive to equitable and thriving development;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montpelier City Council hereby proclaims the month of April 2021 to be Fair Housing Month in Montpelier, and the City Council urges all individuals, agencies, and institutions—public and private—to contribute to the observance by continuing our efforts to eliminate housing discrimination in our community and to increase housing opportunities for all.