

April 1, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THRU: Charles P. Potucek, City Manager
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager
Matt McLachlan, AICP, Director, Dept. of Community Development

FROM: Yolanda Velasquez, Grants Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Agenda Item Placement
Resolution 2024-020, restating the City's Commitment to Fair Housing
in Sierra Vista

Recommendation:

The City Manager recommends approval.
The Assistant City Manager recommends approval.
The Director of the Department of Community Development recommends approval.

Background:

According to HUD, in April, "we come together as a community and a nation to celebrate the anniversary of the passing of the Fair Housing Act and recommit to that goal which inspired us in the aftermath of the 1968 assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: to eliminate housing discrimination and create equal opportunity in every community.

Fundamentally, fair housing means that every person can live free; meaning our communities are open and welcoming, free from housing discrimination and hostility. It also means, each one of us, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability has access to neighborhoods of opportunity—our children can attend quality schools, our environment allows us to be healthy, and our economic opportunities and self-sufficiency can grow.

Our Commitment to fair housing is a living commitment, one that reflects the needs of America today and prepares us for a future of true integration."

The City of Sierra Vista has and will continue to participate in and educate the citizens in our community about the rights given to every person by the Fair Housing legislation. The City adopts a policy of acceptance through an annual Fair Housing Resolution each April and proclaims April to be Fair Housing Month in Sierra Vista.

Budget Appropriation:

None

RESOLUTION 2024 - 020

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA; ADOPTING A FAIR HOUSING POLICY, THE CITY MAKES KNOWN ITS COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF FAIR HOUSING AND DESCRIBING ACTIONS IT SHALL UNDERTAKE TO AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHER FAIR HOUSING; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER, CITY CLERK, CITY ATTORNEY OR THEIR DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS AND AGENTS TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES AND INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended requires that all applicants for Community Development Block Grant funds certify that they shall affirmatively further fair housing; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (commonly known as the Federal Fair Housing Act) as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other house-related transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and disability; and

WHEREAS, fairness is the foundation of the American system and reflects traditional American values and discriminatory housing practices undermine the strength and vitality of America and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1

That the settled policy of the Mayor and City Council to implement programs, within constraints of City's resources, to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, this policy, be, and hereby is, reaffirmed.

SECTION 2

That the Mayor and City Council of the City of Sierra Vista hereby wish all persons living in, working in, conducting business in, or traveling through this City to know that the City is committed to Fair Housing and does not condone discrimination in the sale, rental,

and financing of dwellings, and in other house-related transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and disability; and,

The City of Sierra Vista will refer all persons who feel that they have been discriminated against regarding Fair Housing issues to the Southwest Fair Housing Council, the State Department of Housing, the Arizona Attorney General's Office, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and,

The City of Sierra Vista shall publicize this Resolution, thereby encouraging owners of rental properties, developers, builders, and others involved with housing to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and any applicable state or local laws or ordinances.

The City of Sierra Vista additionally furthers fair housing by posting copies of this Resolution in public places, proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Sierra Vista, posting Fair Housing posters to public areas, and distributing Fair Housing brochures by placing them in information kiosks within City of Sierra Vista buildings.

SECTION 3

The City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, or their duly authorized officers and agents are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA, THIS 11TH DAY OF April 2024.

CLEA McCAA II
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JILL ADAMS
City Clerk

NATHAN J. WILLIAMS
City Attorney

PREPARED BY: Yolanda Velasquez, Grants Administrator