

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

April 6, 2021

Proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month

Each year during the month of April, the nation celebrates the rights granted under the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Title VIII (Act), which guarantees the right to equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex and national origin. Subsequent amendments to the Act and additional state and local laws have extended fair housing rights to all persons regardless of familial status, disability both physical and mental, sexual orientation, source of income including Section 8 subsidy, gender identity and expression, marital status, military and veteran status, domestic violence, immigration or citizenship status, primary language, age and arbitrary reasons. Fair housing laws also includes requirements that reasonable accommodations be made for persons with disabilities and that the state and local jurisdictions affirmatively further fair housing.

The County of Los Angeles (County), through the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), supports and promotes fair housing activities through annual funding to contract with the Housing Rights Center to provide ongoing activities

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designed to promote fair housing to the residents of the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and all Participating Cities in the County's Community Development Block Grant Program, including conducting a program of informational, educational, counseling, and investigative services. These fair housing services provided in Los Angeles County address a wide variety of landlord-tenant issues: evictions, illegal entries, harassment, refusals to rent, pets, lockouts, substandard conditions, and repairs. These issues are resolved through mediation, referrals to other agencies, and litigation.

For example, in the past fiscal year, fair housing services provided assistance to approximately 2,394 households, conducted 652 media events to increase public awareness, and held 145 trainings, workshops, community meetings, walk-in clinics, and other events. Since July 2020, there have been 175 virtual workshops including one per week specifically on COVID-19 related fair housing issues.

On April 22, 2021, the 22nd Annual Housing Rights Summit (Summit) will commemorate National Fair Housing Month and the ideals embodied by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and fellow civil-rights leaders. The Summit is a forum of dialogue, education, and action, designed to address civil rights and social justice issues affecting communities throughout Southern California and will feature educational panels, expert speakers and a community resource fair that will bring together nonprofit agencies, legal aid groups and government officials. This year's Summit, titled "The Road to Recovery: COVID-19 and the Legacy of Housing Discrimination," will take place in a virtual format to ensure the continued health of participants through the COVID-19 pandemic.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim April 2021 as Fair Housing Month in the County of Los Angeles in order to recognize the value and importance of the rights guaranteed under Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, its amendments and expansions, and commit to the furtherance of the Act's goals and ideals throughout the year.

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