

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

April 14, 2015

Proclaim April 2015 as Fair Housing Month

April 11, 2015 marks the 47th anniversary of the enactment of 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, and national origin. Amendments to the Act broadened the protections to include gender, families with children, and persons with disabilities and the 1988 amendments to the Act required that reasonable accommodations be made for persons with disabilities.

Each year, the nation celebrates the rights granted under the Act during the month of April. In conjunction with the Housing Rights Center (HRC), the County of Los Angeles, through the Community Development Commission, supports and promotes fair housing activities, working to affirmatively further fair housing practices across the Los Angeles Urban County. This work is conducted through a program of informational, educational, counseling, and investigative services which are 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.

As part of its work, HRC handles 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.

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On April 16, 2015, HRC will hold its 16th Annual Housing Rights Summit (Summit) with the theme “Race, Place and Poverty” to inform the community about issues concerning fair housing rights. Topics include the criminalization of homelessness, the effects of gentrification and consumer protection laws. There will also be a resource fair where Summit guests can connect with public interest law groups, nonprofit agencies, and government entities.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim April 2015 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 and its amendments and commit to the furtherance of the Act’s goals and ideals throughout the year.

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(LJ)