

RESOLUTION NO. 060396

Declaring April, 2006, as Fair Housing Month in Kansas City, Missouri,

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act was signed on April 11, 1968, just one week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This landmark bill, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, was an important step toward confronting discrimination against minorities in housing. As we celebrate the 38th anniversary of this historic legislation, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that all Kansas Citians have equal access to housing; and

WHEREAS, the City and its housing partners such as the Missouri Housing Development Commission, Community Development Corporations, Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors, Kansas City Home Builders Association, Government Sponsored Enterprises, Fair Housing Assistance organizations, Kansas City Housing Authority, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), recognizes the importance of fair and equal housing opportunities as the cornerstone of all citizen rights; and

WHEREAS, the City has a fair housing ordinance that is substantially equivalent to the Federal Fair Housing Law and the Human Relations Department has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice. Prejudice and discriminatory practices in housing still exist. Increasingly housing developers face opposition from communities to affordable housing. Often based on myths, stereotypes, and outright discrimination, these practices are largely unlawful; and

WHEREAS, equal opportunities in housing can best be accomplished through strong leadership in education, enforcement, and measures to increase the supply of affordable and accessible housing; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and City Council of Kansas City, Missouri does hereby declare the month of April, 2006, as Fair Housing Month in Kansas City, Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to the Human Relations Department, and HUD Region VII Office, with the Mayor and Council urging all citizens to learn more about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and the roles they can individually and collectively play to combat housing discrimination.

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