

RESOLUTION

of the

ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD

RESOLUTION ON AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

WHEREAS, housing justice and racial justice are inextricably linked, and today's housing crisis is disproportionately impacting people of color; and

WHEREAS, most renters paying more than half of their income for rent and utilities are non-white, the result of decades of discrimination and disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, in Arlington, there are significant income and poverty rate disparities; for example, black adults are substantially overrepresented among the homeless population, comprising 83% of homeless individuals while making up only 9% of the general population; and

WHEREAS, cost burden is the most prevalent housing challenge in Arlington and disproportionately impacts Black and Hispanic homeowners and renters; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was a critical step in addressing historic and ongoing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the AFFH rule was rescinded in July and replaced with the Preserving Neighborhood and Community Choice rule, using a unilateral approach that bypassed the federal rulemaking process, including public review and feedback; and

WHEREAS, the new rule ignores the history of segregation in housing policy, downplays discrimination, and decimates accountability by HUD and local jurisdictions to further fair housing, is a drastic departure from the 2015 AFFH rule, which created a data-driven approach to assessing fair housing and planning actions to address disparities, integrate communities, eliminate concentrated areas of poverty, and encourage compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws; and

WHEREAS, Arlington has long recognized that housing policy and a history of racial segregation in our communities continues to shape our neighborhoods today; and

WHEREAS, disparate life outcomes for Black and Brown households have been exacerbated during the current COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Arlington places great importance on racial equity and fair housing; and

WHEREAS, while Arlington is undergoing much change in 2020, our commitment to fair housing and racial equity are unwavering; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Arlington will continue to model its upcoming Consolidated Planning process on the 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing model because we believe that data-driven analysis and robust community engagement helps communities identify and address barriers for immigrants, people with disabilities, and families with children while also addressing historic and ongoing patterns of discrimination, segregation, or disinvestment based on race and other protected classes.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Arlington is committed to collaborating with other jurisdictions on a regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing, a process initiated in 2017, to ensure we are doing all that we can to affirmatively further fair housing goals. The rigorous approach of the AI addresses the aims of the 1968 Fair Housing Act to end discrimination and segregation in our communities and recognizes that regional cooperation is key to reversing years of racial segregation and disinvestment.

Adopted the 15th day of September, 2020