



PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2024 TO BE FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN **HINESBURG**

The Town of Hinesburg recognizes that the Federal Fair Housing Act was passed in April 1968, to eliminate discrimination in housing based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, and sex, and to further housing choice for all Americans;

And that the Federal Fair Housing Act was amended in 1988, to also protect families with children and people with disabilities;

And that Vermont has been a leader in the country by enacting the Vermont Fair Housing Act to expand on the protections of the Federal Fair Housing Act by including age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, recipient of public assistance, and people who have experienced abuse, sexual assault, or stalking as prohibited bases;

And that the month of April is now celebrated as Fair Housing Month nationally, by Vermont and locally;

And that the ongoing struggle for dignity and opportunity for all in housing is not the exclusive province of the federal government;

And that vigorous local efforts to combat discrimination and expand housing opportunities are effective;

And that Hinesburg's citizens need equal opportunities to safe, decent, and affordable housing;

And that the Town of Hinesburg, its Town Manager, and its Select Board are committed to making Hinesburg a diverse and inclusive community for all who choose to make their homes here;

And that the Town of Hinesburg supports the efforts of fair housing organizations, concerned citizens, and the housing and land use industries to achieve fair housing choice in Hinesburg and to promote understanding of the Fair Housing Act;

And that illegal barriers, no matter how subtle, to equal opportunity in housing for some diminish the rights of all;

And recognizing that other barriers such as a person's criminal record, socio-economic status, veteran status or being a single parent or a first time home buyer may have an adverse impact on finding housing;

And that inclusive, welcoming, and affordable communities promote diversity and a climate conducive to equitable and thriving development;



NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Hinesburg Select Board hereby proclaims the month of April 2024 to be Fair Housing Month in Hinesburg, and the Select Board urges all individuals, agencies, and institutions—public and private—to contribute to the observance by continuing our efforts to eliminate housing discrimination in our community and to increase housing opportunities for all.

FURTHER, the Hinesburg Select Board encourages anyone who believes they were discriminated against when seeking housing of any type, to report such discrimination to the Town Manager and the Vermont Human Rights Commission.