

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

April 11, 2017

Proclaiming April 2017 as “Fair Housing Month” in the County of Los Angeles

April 11, 2017 marks the 49th 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. The County of Los Angeles (County), through the Community Development Commission, supports and promotes fair housing activities, working to affirmatively further access to fair housing across the 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 the County and all participating cities in the County's Community Development Block Grant Program.

Fair housing services provided in the 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 either through mediation, referrals to other agencies, or litigation.

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For example, in the past fiscal year fair housing services provided assistance to approximately 3,239 individuals, distributed approximately 19,472 pieces of related literature, conducted 67 media events to increase public awareness, and held a combined total of more than 124 trainings, workshops, community meetings, walk-in clinics, and other events.

On April 20, 2017, the 18th Annual Housing Rights Summit (Summit) will be held with the theme “*A Time for Justice*,” to inform the community about issues concerning fair housing rights. The Summit will take place at the California Endowment and will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Topics include short-term rentals and rent control, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule after one year and the effects of the new administration, and criminalization of people with disabilities. There will also be a resource fair where Summit guests can connect with public interest law groups, nonprofit agencies, and government entities. More information about the Summit can be found at <http://www.hrc-la.org>.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim April 2017 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, encourage attendance at the Annual Housing Rights Summit, and commit to the furtherance of the Act’s goals and ideals throughout the year.

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