



For Immediate Release

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April is National Fair Housing Month in Naperville

NAPERVILLE, Ill. — Naperville will recognize April as National Fair Housing Month with a proclamation and banners installed on Washington and Aurora Avenues. National Fair Housing Month was established to raise awareness of fair housing rights and highlight efforts to end housing discrimination.

“Fair and affordable housing continues to be an important priority for Naperville,” says Michele Clemen, who has chaired the City’s Housing Advisory Commission for the past five years. “We continue to work toward housing benchmarks, including increasing the City’s percentage of affordable housing to 10%.” Currently, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) has identified about 7.5% of the City’s housing stock as “affordable,” based on a formula included in the state’s Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act.

Fair housing means that prospective renters or homebuyers receive equal consideration regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation or family status. In 2016, the City Council approved a change to the City’s fair housing ordinance, recommended by the Housing Advisory Commission, to require landlords to accept housing choice vouchers and other government-provided housing assistance as legal sources of income, making it easier for lower-income households to rent apartments in the City. In May 2017, the “Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice,” a consultant study required by HUD, was completed and presented to the City Council. Since that time, the Commission has worked to implement the study’s recommendations, including training City staff, City Council members and commissioners on fair housing laws. Later this year, similar training will be offered to members of the home buying and selling industry in Naperville. Staff will also work with the Commission to revise the City’s procedures for handling fair housing complaints.

Two additional housing studies are slated for completion this year. One, to be conducted in conjunction with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, will identify a few crucial housing issues, such as the availability of senior housing and affordable housing for all income levels within the City. This study will also look at how ideas and best practices from similar communities might work in Naperville. Another study will look at long-range trends in Naperville housing and population demographics, making predictions about future housing needs and affordability. These studies will provide a roadmap for preserving and increasing affordable housing in Naperville.

For more information on fair and affordable housing in Naperville, visit naperville.il.us/residents/fair-housing-and-discrimination.

About Naperville: Located 28 miles west of Chicago, Naperville, Ill., is home to approximately 145,000 people. This vibrant, thriving City consistently ranks as a top community in the nation in which to live, raise children and retire. The City is home to acclaimed public and parochial schools, the best public library system in the country, an array of healthcare options and an exceptionally low crime rate. Naperville has ready access to a variety of public transportation, housing and employment options. The City's diversified employer base features high technology firms, retailers and factories, as well as small and home-based businesses. Residents also enjoy world-class parks, diverse worship options, the opportunity to serve on several City boards and commissions, a thriving downtown shopping and dining area, a renowned outdoor history museum known as Naper Settlement and an active civic community. For more information, please visit our website at www.naperville.il.us.