

Whereas

Whereas, the Fair Housing Act, enacted on April 11, 1968 was adopted to prohibit discriminatory housing practices, undo racial segregation patterns, and provide equal access to housing opportunity for all; and

Whereas, in Portland, the combined Federal, State, and local civil rights laws protect people from housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, familial status, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, source of income, military status, gender identity, ethnicity, or history of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault; and

Whereas, decades of intentional and unintentional government action, combined with market forces, have created an urgent and long-term need for displacement prevention and mitigation policies; and

Whereas, this year Portland prioritized displacement mitigation strategies for renters such as a moratorium on evictions, low-barrier screening options, security deposit protections, new affordable housing resources, and leadership from those most impacted; and

Whereas, despite these legal protections and policies, Portland residents, communities, and institutions are increasingly being pushed out by the economic and social forces of displacement. No neighborhoods in Portland are affordable to Black and Indigenous renters and severe rent burden puts households at risk of displacement and homelessness; and

Whereas, a state of housing emergency is made worse by the public health emergency. This crisis and ongoing displacement especially impacts protected classes and vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and disabled while stressing the health and well being of everyone; and

Whereas, our city must enforce legal protections put in place to prevent worsening of the public health crisis and state of housing emergency for our diverse population and needs; Fair Housing month is an opportunity to reflect on our actions and demand more action; and

Whereas, we celebrate the passage of the Fair Housing Act, let us recommit ourselves to eliminating discrimination in housing by better understanding the barriers to housing choice; dedicating resources to meaningfully address disparities; adopting policies that support our community's most vulnerable residents; measuring the impacts of our efforts; and creating more housing that welcomes and celebrates people of all abilities, races, cultures, and incomes;

Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim April 2020 to be

Fair Housing Month

in Portland and encourage all residents to observe this month by joining the citywide effort to realize equal housing opportunity for all.