

RESOLUTION NO. 15-2009

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS ADOPTING AND AMENDING A FAIR HOUSING POLICY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND DESIGNATING A FAIR HOUSING OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE.

WHEREAS, it is important that every human being have access to adequate housing of his or her choice, and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Constitution of the United States provide that no citizen can be denied access to housing of his or her choice because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 1981, the City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, adopted a Resolution endorsing and supporting the principle of Fair Housing as set forth in the Civil Rights Act of 1968, and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 1985, the City Council of the City of Abilene passed a Resolution adopting a Fair Housing Policy in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Constitution of the United States;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

Part 1: The City of Abilene hereby adopts the amended Fair Housing Policy shown on the attached Exhibit A, which is incorporated for all purposes.

Part 2: That the City Manager is hereby authorized to designate a Fair Housing Officer for the City of Abilene through whom all complaints of housing discrimination will be processed in coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Regional Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, 801 Cherry St., Unit #45, Suite 2500, Ft. Worth, Texas 76102.

Part 3: That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage.

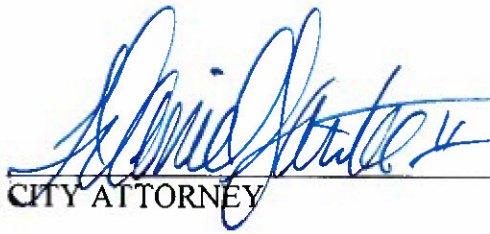
ADOPTED this the 28th day of May, 2009.

ATTEST:


CITY SECRETARY


MAYOR

APPROVED:



CITY ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT A

CITY OF ABILENE FAIR HOUSING POLICY

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The City of Abilene is committed to a policy of supporting and encouraging fair housing so that no person is denied adequate housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

II. ADMINISTRATION

The head of each department in the City of Abilene is responsible for ensuring that its programs and activities relating to housing and urban development be administered in a manner to affirmatively further the goal of fair housing as required by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Constitution of the United States.

III. IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibility for the implementation of the Fair Housing Policy rests with the City Manager and his staff.

City Manager

1. Commitment of City resources in support of the Fair Housing Policy;
2. Designation of a Fair Housing Officer to implement and carry out the Fair Housing Policy.

IV. FAIR HOUSING OFFICER

The basic responsibilities of the Fair Housing Officer shall be to:

1. Develop procedures for implementation of the Fair Housing Policy.
2. Provide fair housing orientation and training for management and administrative staff.
3. Assure completion of all required fair housing reporting forms.
4. Maintain liaison with state and federal agencies with fair housing compliance functions, and with community organizations and citizen groups with interest in fair housing activities.
5. Receive and forward allegations of discriminatory housing practices in the City to the City Manager's office and the HUD Regional Office.
6. Annually review and evaluate the City's Fair Housing Policy and propose necessary changes and revisions to the City Manager.

V. FAIR HOUSING COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Any community resident who feels that the/she has been discriminated against in obtaining housing and/or housing related services because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, shall have the right to file a Housing Discrimination Complaint with the Fair Housing Officer for the City of Abilene. The complaint must be in writing. Housing Discrimination Complaint forms shall be available in the Office of Neighborhood Services, 555 Walnut, Abilene, Texas.

Adopted by the City Council on MAY 28, 2009 .