

RESOLUTION 2021-16

A RESOLUTION THAT MONROE COUNTY RECOGNIZES HOUSING AS A HUMAN RIGHT

By recognizing housing as a basic human right, this resolution establishes a vision for our community to empower people of all ages, abilities, incomes, and identities with access to safe and stable housing so that they may live and thrive in Monroe County.

WHEREAS, safe and affordable housing equates to better health outcomes, while households who are cost-burdened cannot adequately spend on nutritious food and healthcare costs, bringing down health outcomes, and impeding child development;

WHEREAS, the availability of affordable housing supports vulnerable populations, prevents crowding, limits exposure to environmental toxins, and increases the feasibility of escape and survival from domestic violence;

WHEREAS, studies show that stable, long-term housing is the single most important factor in a person's ability to recover from struggles with employment, substance abuse, and mental or physical illness;

WHEREAS, unemployment, poverty, and housing instability are broader systemic issues;

WHEREAS, affordable and accessible housing promotes opportunities for increased independence for people with disabilities;

WHEREAS, unstable housing causes children to suffer from slowed development, emotional difficulties, and underachievement in education;

WHEREAS, the lack of access to affordable housing will ripple through our community for generations, not only in health outcomes, but also financial impacts;

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Human Rights Ordinance promotes equal opportunity in employment, housing, education and access to public accommodations, regardless of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, housing status or status as a veteran, and prohibits familial status discrimination in housing;

WHEREAS, the human right to housing includes legal security of tenure, availability of services and infrastructure, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Monroe County is committed to the advancement of fair and affordable housing. In the furthering of County Code 520 Human Rights Ordinance and County Ordinance 2018-20 (Establishing the Affordable Housing Advisory Commission), Monroe County joins other jurisdictions across the country in declaring housing as a human right. In doing so, Monroe County commits to the goal of safe, decent, healthy, sustainable, and accessible housing for all residents and to the objectives and policies that accompany said goal.

Adopted this ____ day of March, 2021.

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ATTEST:

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