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## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

### **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

**WHEREAS**, Boston's neighborhoods have historically experienced discriminatory policies and practices sanctioned by federal and local governments, leading to entrenched racial segregation, systemic oppression, and significant disparities in housing opportunities and economic stability for communities of color; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The enduring impact of these practices persists today, as Boston remains the 11th most segregated metropolitan area between Black and white residents in the United States as of 2020; *and*

**WHEREAS**, This segregation has directly contributed to a persistent racial homeownership gap, where today only 30 percent of Black families and 17 percent of Latino families own homes in Boston, compared to 44 percent of White households; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Mortgage denial rates were more than twice as high for Black Bostonians (10.8%) than White Bostonians (4.8%) in 2020s; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Between 2007 and 2022, the share of mortgage applications from Black residents in Boston dropped by half; *and*

**WHEREAS**, In response to these inequities, Boston's history is marked by strong community activism, which has championed anti-displacement efforts and equitable urban development through grassroots movements that successfully resisted disruptive infrastructure projects, preserved neighborhood integrity, and promoted community-driven solutions; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) provision of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 mandates proactive measures by federal agencies and recipients of housing funds to dismantle historical segregation patterns and ensure equitable housing opportunities for all residents; *and*

**WHEREAS**, In alignment with AFFH principles, the City of Boston established the Office of Fair Housing and Equity within the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, dedicated to enforcing fair housing laws, protecting residents from discrimination, and advancing citywide equitable housing policies; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The late Robert Terrell significantly shaped Boston's fair housing legacy through visionary leadership and advocacy, notably spearheading pioneering zoning reforms that advanced equity and set a national precedent; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Numerous local organizations, including Action for Equity, Reclaim Roxbury, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), Housing Forward, Chinese Progressive Association, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), HUD Tenant Alliance, and many others continue to advocate tirelessly for fair and equitable housing practices across Boston; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Despite meaningful progress, significant challenges remain, with more than a quarter of Boston's rental households spending more than half their income on rent, surpassing the national average and increasing the risk of displacement; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The ongoing housing affordability crisis is underscored by Boston's median home price being 6.3 times higher than the median income, considerably exceeding the national average of 4.9, thus perpetuating economic disparities; **NOW,**  
**THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council officially recognizes April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Boston, honors the enduring legacy of Robert Terrell, acknowledges the invaluable contributions of local fair housing organizations and advocates, and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing robust policies and actions that promote equity, inclusion, and fair housing opportunities for all Boston residents.

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