

RESOLUTION

Recognizing April 2024 As National Fair Housing Month

WHEREAS, the Planning Board for the Town of Westerly finds that the availability, quality, safety, and general state of housing units has significant impact on the well-being of residents and on the livability and desirability of the community; and

WHEREAS, to achieve the component of the Westerly stated VISION of “a safe, resilient, and compassionate community with a healthy environment” and “a strong, stable, equitable economy,” the **2020 Comprehensive Plan** adopts as a Goal: “A broad range of integrated, inclusive, age-friendly, and affordable housing options town wide will securely meet the needs of all households and individuals in the community”; and

WHEREAS, Congress declared by the Civil Rights Act of 1968, specifically the Fair Housing Act (P.L. 90-284; 18 U.S.C. 245) individuals in the United States of America, the State of Rhode Island and the Town of Westerly have the right to choose where to live without discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island General Assembly has declared by the Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act of 1965 (RIGL §34-37), last amended, that in the State of Rhode Island no person should be denied equal opportunity in obtaining housing accommodations or be forced to live in circumscribed areas because of discriminatory housing practices; and

WHEREAS, stable, integrated, and balanced residential patterns are inhibited by irresponsible development and land use provisions that result in barriers to residents and opportunities in our community; and

WHEREAS, the efforts and resources of grassroots and non-profit organizations, housing service providers, financial institutions, elected officials, appointed officials, state agencies, and others must be combined to promote and preserve integration, fair housing, and equal opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Planning Board for the Town of Westerly, Rhode Island do hereby recognize the month of April 2024 as Fair Housing Month and proclaim the land use policies of the Town of Westerly as open and inclusive, committed to fair housing and the promotion of appropriate activities by private and public entities intended to provide or advocate for integration and equal housing opportunities for all residents and prospective residents of Westerly.

FURTHER, be it hereby resolved that this Resolution shall be publicized by posting at Westerly Town Hall through the Planning Board’s web page, and Affordable Housing Study and, through this publicity, shall cause real estate brokers and sellers, private home sellers, rental owners, rental property managers, real estate and rental advertisers, lenders, builders, developers, home buyers and home or apartment renters to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under all applicable federal and state laws.

ADOPTED: April 2, 2024



Justin Hopkins, Chairman