

**FAIR HOUSING POLICY OF
THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

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Executed this 21st day of January, 2014.





Rebecca J. Rossell
Lincoln County Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-07

A RESOLUTION TO MAKE UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION IN THE ACQUISITION, OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, OR ENJOYMENT OF HOUSING; TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS; TO MAKE CERTAIN INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

WHEREAS, The county of Lincoln, Nebraska, has policies regarding non-discrimination for all residents of the County; and,

WHEREAS, The county of Lincoln, Nebraska, resolves to adopt the following Fair Housing Policy by resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of The county of Lincoln, Nebraska, adopts the following Fair Housing Policy for Lincoln County, Nebraska, to wit:

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1: FAIR HOUSING; PURPOSE. The purpose of this Article is to promote the general welfare of the residents of Lincoln County, Nebraska, by endorsing the provisions of the Nebraska Fair Housing Act, Sections 20-344, R.R.S. Nebraska, to the effect that there shall be no discrimination in Lincoln County, Nebraska, in the acquisition, ownership, possession, or enjoyment of housing in accordance with Article I, Section 25, of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska.

SECTION 2: FAIR HOUSING; DEFINITIONS. As used in this Article unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) Aggrieved person shall include any person who: (a) claims to have been injured by a discriminatory housing practice, or (b) believes that he or she will be injured by a discriminatory housing practice that is about to occur;
- (2) Commission shall mean the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission;
- (3) Dwelling shall mean any building, structure, or portion thereof which is occupied as or designed or intended for occupancy as a residence for one or more families and any vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location thereon of any such building, structure, or portion thereof;
- (4) Familial status shall mean one or more minors being domiciled with: (a) a parent or another person having legal custody of such individual; or (b) the designee of a parent or other person having legal custody, with written permission of the parent or other person;
- (5) Handicap shall mean, with respect to a person: (a) a physical or mental impairment, excluding the current illegal use of or addiction to a controlled substance as defined in Section 28-401, R.R.S., Nebraska, which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities, (b) a record of having such an impairment, or (c) being regarded as having such an impairment;

- (6) Person shall include one or more individuals, corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, associations, labor organizations legal representatives, mutual companies, joint-stock companies, trusts, unincorporated organizations, trustees, trustees in bankruptcy, receivers, and fiduciaries;
- (7) Rent shall include lease, sublease, let, and otherwise grant for consideration the right to occupy premises not owned by the occupant; and,
- (8) Restrictive covenant shall mean any specification limiting the transfer, rental, or lease of any housing because of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sex, handicap, familial status, or ancestry.

SECTION 3: FAIR HOUSING; UNLAWFUL ACTS. Except as exempted by Section 20-322, R.R.S., Nebraska, it shall be unlawful to:

- (1) Refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of or otherwise make unavailable or deny, refuse to show, or refuse to receive and transmit an offer for a dwelling to any person because of race, color, religion, national origin, familial status, or sex;
- (2) Discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of a sale or rental of a dwelling or in the provision of services or facilities in connection therewith because of race, color, religion, national origin, familial status, or sex;
- (3) Make, print, publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published any notice, statement, or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, familial status, or sex or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination;
- (4) Represent to any person because of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, familial status, or sex that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when such dwelling is in fact so available;
- (5) Cause to be made any written or oral inquiry or record concerning the race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, familial status, or sex of a person seeking to purchase, rent, or lease any housing;
- (6) Include in any transfer, sale rental, or lease of housing any restrictive covenants or honor or exercise or attempt to honor or exercise any restrictive covenant pertaining to housing;
- (7) Discharge or demote an employee or agent or discriminate in the compensation of such employee or agent because of such employee's or agent's compliance with the Nebraska Fair Housing Act; and,
- (8) Induce or attempt to induce, for profit, any person to sell or rent any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, familial status, or sex.

The protections afforded against discrimination on the basis of familial status shall apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any minor.

SECTION 4: FAIR HOUSING; HANDICAPPED PERSON; DISCRIMINATION PRACTICES PROHIBITED; DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.

- (1) Except exempted by Section 20-322, R.R.S., Nebraska, it shall be unlawful to:
 - (a) Discriminate in the sale or rental of or otherwise make unavailable or deny a dwelling to any buyer or renter because of a handicap of:
 - (i) The buyer or renter;
 - (ii) Any person associated with the buyer or renter; or,
 - (iii) A person residing in or intending to reside in the dwelling after it is so sold, rented or made available; or;
 - (b) Discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with a dwelling because of a handicap of:
 - (i) Such person;
 - (ii) Any person associated with such person; or
 - (iii) A person residing in or intending to reside in the dwelling after it is so sold, rented or made available.
- (2) For purposes of this section, discrimination shall include:
 - (a) A refusal to permit, at the expense of the handicapped person reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by the person if the modification may be necessary to afford the person full enjoyment of the premises, except that in the case of rental, the landlord may, when it is reasonable to do so, condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear expected;
 - (b) A refusal to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services when such accommodations may be necessary to afford the handicapped person equal opportunity to use or enjoy a dwelling; and,

(c) In connection with the design and construction of covered multifamily dwellings for first occupancy after September 1, 1991, a failure to design and construct the dwellings in such a manner that:

- (i) The public use and common use portions of the dwelling are readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons;
- (ii) All the doors designed to allow passage into and within all premises within the dwellings are sufficiently wide to allow passage by handicapped persons in wheelchairs; and
- (iii) All premises within the dwellings contain the following features of adaptive design:

(A) An accessible route into and through the dwellings;

(B) Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats, and other environmental controls in accessible locations

(C) Kitchens and bathrooms such that a wheel chair can maneuver about the space.

- (3) Compliance with the appropriate requirements of the American National Standards Institute standard for buildings and facilities providing accessibility and usability for physically handicapped people. ANSI A117.1, shall satisfy the requirements of subdivision (2)(c) (iii) of this section.
- (4) For purposes of this section, covered multifamily dwellings shall mean:
 - (a) Building consisting of four or more units if such buildings have one or more elevators; and,
 - (b) Ground floor units in other buildings consisting of four or more units.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall require that a dwelling be made available to an individual whose tenancy would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or whose tenancy would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others.

SECTION 5. FAIR HOUSING; TRANSACTION RELATED TO RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE; DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES PROHIBITED.

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or other entity whose business includes engaging in transactions related to residential real estate to discriminate against any person in making available such a transaction or in the terms or conditions of such a transaction because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.
- (2) For purposes of this section, transaction related to residential real estate shall mean any of the following:
 - (a) The making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance:
 - (i) For purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintain a dwelling; or
 - (ii) Secured by residential real estate; or
 - (b) The selling, brokering, or appraising of residential real property.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person engaged in the business of furnishing appraisals of real property from taking into consideration factors other that race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, familial status or sex.

SECTION 6. FAIR HOUSING; MULTIPLE LISING SERVICE: OTHER SERVICE; DISCRIMIINATORY PRACTICES PROHIBITED

It shall be unlawful to deny any person access to or membership or participation in any multiple listing service, real estate brokers organization, or other service, organization or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings or to discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of such access, membership, or participation on account of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, familial status, or sex.

SECTION 7. FAIR HOUSING; RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE HOME, PRIVATE CLUB, OR HOUSING FOR OLDER PERSONS, RESTRICING USE NOT PROHIBITED.

- (1) Nothing in this Article shall prohibit a religious organization, association, or society or any nonprofit institution or organization operated, supervised, or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious organization, association, or society from limiting the sale, rental, or occupancy of a dwelling which it owns or operates for other than commercial purposes to persons of the same religion or from giving preferences to such persons unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color, national origin, handicap, familial status, or sex.
- (2) Nothing in this Article shall prohibit a private club not in fact open to the public, which as an incident to its primary purpose or purposes provides lodgings which it owns or operates for other than commercial purpose, from limiting the rental or occupancy of such lodging to its members or from giving preference to its members.

- (3) Nothing in the Article shall prohibit or limit the right of any person or his or her authorized representative to refuse to rent a room or rooms in his or her own home for any reason or for no reason or to change tenants in his or her own home as often as desired, except that this exception shall not apply to any person who makes available for rental occupancy more than four sleeping rooms to a person or family within his or her own home.
- (4) Nothing in this Article regarding familial status shall apply with respect to housing for older persons. For purposes of this subsection, housing for older persons shall mean housing:
 - (a) Provided under any state program that the commission determines is specially designed and operated to assist elderly persons as defined in the program.
 - (b) Intended for and solely occupied by person sixty-two (62) years of age or older; or
 - (c) Intended and operated for occupancy by at least one person fifty-five (55) years of age or older per unit.

SECTION 8. FAIR HOUSING, INFORMATION.

The County Clerk, upon request, shall make available to an aggrieved person, or any other person, information regarding the Nebraska Fair Housing Act and the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission without cost to such individual. (Reference 20-301 through 20-322, R.R.S., Nebraska)

SECTION 9: PUBLICATION. This Resolution (Fair Housing Policy of The county of Lincoln, Nebraska) shall be published in book or pamphlet form by the Lincoln County Clerk forthwith.

SECTION 10. REPEAL. That any other Resolution or section passed and approved prior to the passage, approval and publication or posting of this Resolution (Fair Housing Policy of The county of Lincoln, Nebraska) are in conflict with its provisions, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 11. PASSAGE. This Resolution (Fair Housing Policy of The county of Lincoln, Nebraska) shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage, adoption, approval, and publication, as required by law.

A motion was made by County Board member Willis Roethemeyer seconded by County Board member Dwane Detuberg to approve and adopt this herein Resolution (Resolution No. 2014-07).

Upon roll call Roethemeyer, Detuberg, and _____ voted "aye" Nays 0, and _____.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOTE OF 2 to 0 on this 21st day of

January 2014.

WHEREUPON the Chairman declared this herein Resolution (Resolution No. 2014-07)

duly adopted, passed and approved this 21st day of January, 2014.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN,
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Duane Deterding
DUANE DETERDING, CHAIRMAN

Willis Roethemeyer
WILLIS ROETHEMEYER, COMMISSIONER

Joseph Hewgley
JOSEPH HEWGLEY, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Rebecca J. Russell
Rebecca J. Russell
Lincoln County Clerk

