BOARD OF HOUSING COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 2021-08

CELEBRATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH IN MAY 2021

WHEREAS, access to quality housing is about more than having a roof over one's head – it is the foundation for strong families, thriving communities and a thriving economy; and

WHEREAS, we all need an affordable place to call home during the current public health emergency, so that we can all maintain physical separation (social distancing) to help stop the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, 22 percent of New Mexico homeowners and 44 percent of renters in our state spend more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing costs; and

WHEREAS, access to affordable housing that is decent, safe and sanitary, improves upward economic mobility, and increases disposable income among program participants, reduces childhood poverty rates and helps break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, and is a major social determinant of physical health; and

WHEREAS, access to safe, stable, affordable housing reduces instances of homelessness, prevents homelessness in vulnerable populations, creates career opportunities and boosts local economies; and

WHEREAS, local unemployment rates are still dramatically higher in May 2021 than in January 2020, prior to the spread of COVID-19, and thousands of local households in the past year have suddenly found themselves unable to pay rent or mortgage debts for their home; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to increase access to high quality affordable housing for all Albuquerque residents though the development of additional affordable housing communities, and expansion of down payment assistance, mortgage assistance, rental assistance and supportive housing programs; and

WHEREAS, a recent report from the Urban Institute "Albuquerque Affordable Housing and Homelessness Needs Assessment" highlighted that in Albuquerque there is a gap of about 15,500 units of affordable housing for renter households with extremely low incomes and a gap of nearly 800 units of rapid rehousing for people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on May 3, 2021 declared May 2021 as Affordable Housing Month, in the State of New Mexico, as part of a, national campaign to inform the public and decision makers of the critical need to address the nation's housing and community development concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Mission of AHA is empowering people in our community through affordable housing and self-sufficiency opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2021, AHA has hired as new employees multiple local residents that are members of Low Income households (HUD Section 3 Workers), providing self-sufficiency opportunities; and

WHEREAS, it is important to expand partnerships with city, county, state, tribal and federal government partners, nonprofit service providers, faith communities, neighborhood and home owner associations, local, state and national housing organizations, housing developers, landlords, tenants, lenders and real estate brokers to achieve these goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AHA BOARD OF HOUSING COMMISSIONERS, the governing body of the AHA that:

1. The month of May is to be celebrated as Affordable Housing Month, throughout the AHA.
2. AHA has endeavored for decades to address our growing local affordable housing and community development needs.
3. AHA has been successful in partially addressing local needs by using a combination of local, state and federal resources.
4. More resources are needed locally to meet the growing demand for affordable places to live.
5. AHA hereby recommits itself to meeting the affordable housing and community development needs of our local community.
6. A signed copy of this Resolution shall be shared with stakeholders to bring awareness of the need for more resources to address the growing need for affordable housing opportunities.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 19th day of May 2021.

BY A VOTE OF 5 FOR, AND 0 AGAINST.

Members Absent: none
Members voting against: none

ALBUQUERQUE HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF HOUSING COMMISSIONERS

By: /s Rebecca Robinson
Rebecca Robinson, Chairperson of the Board

ATTEST: /s Linda Bridge
Linda Bridge, Secretary to the Board and Executive Director