

PROCLAMATION

Fair Housing Awareness Month

WHEREAS, April marks the 57th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which sought to eliminate discrimination in housing opportunities and to affirmatively further housing choices for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act, and its Amendments; the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, our local ordinances, and we seek to prohibit discrimination in housing and housing-related transactions in our communities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, disability, and religion; and

WHEREAS, housing plays a central role in our communities. Where we grow up and live impacts our educational attainment, health disparities, career opportunities, and creation of generational wealth; and

WHEREAS, fair housing complaints nationally have been increasing every year for the past ten years, with 34,150 complaints received nationally by fair housing organizations in 2023. More than half of these complaints related to disability discrimination; in addition, there was a more than 60% increase in complaints about harassment, intimidation, and threats.

WHEREAS, awareness, knowledge, and advocacy, are essential to promote the ideals of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and related state and local laws; and

WHEREAS, to improve the welfare of all, we must continue to strive for equal housing opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing struggle for dignity and housing opportunity for all is not the exclusive province of the Federal government; and

WHEREAS, vigorous local efforts to combat discrimination can be as effective, if not more so, than Federal efforts; and

WHEREAS, illegal barriers to equal opportunity in housing, no matter how subtle, diminish the rights of all;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayors of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, and the County Executives of Lehigh County and Northampton County, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Fair Housing Awareness Month. We encourage all agencies, institutions, and individuals, public and private, in Lehigh and Northampton Counties to abide by the letter and spirit of the Fair Housing Act.



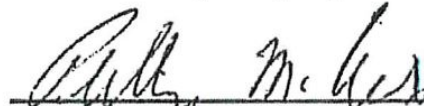
Matt Tuerk, Mayor of Allentown



J. William Reynolds, Mayor of Bethlehem



Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., Mayor of Easton



Phillips Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive



Lamont G. McClure, Jr., Northampton County Executive