



BETTER AGENTS ♦ BETTER COMMUNITIES
SAINT PAUL AREA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

March 28, 2025

Greetings,

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself as the Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors® (SPAAR) Government Affairs Director. As you may know, SPAAR is a professional organization of approximately 8,000 Realtors® in 12 Minnesota counties and 200+ cities and townships. SPAAR's Realtor® members and staff are committed to working with you to further strengthen Minnesota's vibrant communities through the dream of homeownership, fair housing, and sustainable community development.

April marks the start of Fair Housing Month. As it draws near, we would like to highlight the significance of the Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, national origin, and disability. Realtors® believe our social fabric, the economy, health, and environment are strengthened in diverse, inclusive communities. With the homeownership gap continuing to widen, this issue is more important than ever.

We hope your county will join us in continuing to uphold fair housing laws by signing on to the included Fair Housing Month Proclamation. In addition to signing on to the proclamation, SPAAR believes it would be productive if the Board of Commissioners would take some time to further discuss this issue. SPAAR and our members are happy to have a conversation about what that could look like.

Realtors® and local governments know a strong and fair housing market can be the foundation of a lively and inclusive community. I look forward to working with you and your staff on public policy initiatives to best serve the housing needs of residents in your community. If SPAAR, our members, or I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Best,

Simon Opatz
Government Affairs Director

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FAIR HOUSING MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS The Fair Housing Act, enacted on April 11, 1968, enshrined into federal law the goal of eliminating racial segregation and ending housing discrimination in the United States; and

WHEREAS The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, and disability, and commits recipients of federal funding to affirmatively further fair housing in their communities; and

WHEREAS [*Your Community's Name*] is committed to the mission and intent of Congress to provide fair and equal housing opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS Our social fabric, the economy, health, and environment are strengthened in diverse, inclusive communities; and

WHEREAS More than fifty years after the passage of the Fair Housing Act, discrimination persists, and many communities remain segregated; and

WHEREAS Acts of housing discrimination and barriers to equal housing opportunity are repugnant to a common sense of decency and fairness.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the [*Legislative Body*] of [*Your Community's Name*] does hereby declare the month of April 2025 as

Fair Housing Month

In [*Your Community's Name*] as an inclusive community committed to fair housing, and to promoting appropriate activities by private and public entities to provide and advocate for equal housing opportunities for all residents and prospective residents of [*Your Community's Name*].