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**Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay and Supervisor Lusk
Request to Designate April 2024 as Fair Housing Month**

Members of the Board,

Housing choice and equal housing serve as a transformative vehicle that gives families and residents access to quality education opportunities, safe neighborhoods, and a better future. Equal housing opportunities and housing choices enhance the quality of life for the entire community, and our highest ideals of diversity, community, and freedom.

April 11, 2024 marks the 56th anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act whose purpose and mission was to put an end to inequality in housing and to eliminate racial segregation in neighborhoods and communities throughout the country. In addition, the Fair Housing Act was to guarantee that all people have the right to obtain housing of their choice, free from discrimination.

April is celebrated throughout the nation as Fair Housing Month to recognize and extol the value and virtue of equal housing opportunities and fair treatment. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Fairfax County Human Rights Ordinance which provides equal housing opportunities for all Fairfax County residents regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, familial status, age,

marital status, military status, source of funds, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs is hosting a Fair Housing event on April 25th from 10 am to 12:30 pm in partnership with The Equal Rights Center and the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. The event program includes a keynote address affirmatively furthering fair housing by leading civil rights attorney and former HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Sara Pratt. Additional details can be found on bit.ly/ffxfairhousing.

Therefore, I move that the Board designate April 2024 as Fair Housing Month in Fairfax County and that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation to be presented at the Fair Housing Event on April 25, 2024.