

ILLINOIS AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK IS
MARCH 19-25, 2006
APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH
SAMPLE PROCLAMATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Since 1998, Interfaith has encouraged local governments to proclaim Affordable Housing Week. Some municipalities have also recognized National Fair Housing Month (April, in honor of the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968).

This is a great, generally easy way, for municipal and elected officials to highlight their commitment to diversity, and fair and affordable housing.

What follows is sample proclamation language that you should feel free to edit as fits your needs. If you have questions or comments about getting proclamations, or questions about getting other statistics, contact Interfaith.

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION LANGUAGE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK

WHEREAS, housing is a basic human need and owning and affording a home is part of the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, over 1 million Illinois households have housing affordability problems. Nearly 800,000 renters and homeowners are paying more than 35% of their income on housing. Over 200,000 households are overcrowded in an effort to afford housing.

WHEREAS, an Illinois household that rents must include at least 2.4 full-time minimum wage earners to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment. Almost half, 48 percent, of Illinois' 1.5 million renter households do not earn this much. This translates into a "Housing Wage" of \$15.43 per hour and an annual income of \$32,095. (Information for individual counties and metro areas is available at <http://www.nlihc.org/oor2005/>.)

WHEREAS, in 2005 more than 40,000 requests for assistance from the state Homelessness Prevention Program went unmet due to a lack of funds.

WHEREAS, lockouts, forcible entry, and security deposit disputes are common occurrences for Illinois renters

WHEREAS, approximately 56,417 Illinois households remain on waiting lists to receive Housing Choice Vouchers and more than 33,000 project-based Section 8 apartments will be lost prior to 2009 as federal contracts expire.

WHEREAS, even two-income households are feeling the pinch. The combined

salary of a registered nurse and a police officer would still not be enough to afford the median home value in many parts of the Chicago region.

WHEREAS, we're all bearing the cost of the affordable housing shortage. The jobs-housing mismatch leads to traffic congestion. Data indicates that the Chicago region is not adding new moderately priced housing where thousands of new jobs are being created. The result is increased air pollution and traffic congestion that costs the Chicago region over \$4 billion dollars a year in wasted fuel, delayed shipments, and lost work time.

WHEREAS, the talents of grassroots organizations, non-profit housing professionals, financial institutions, elected officials, and government must be combined to address the immense challenge of ensuring that every person in Illinois has access to affordable housing.

THEREFORE, XXXXX proclaim March 19-26, 2006, as AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK in XXXXX.

SAMPLE FAIR HOUSING MONTH PROCLAMATION:

Proclamation

Village of Morton Grove

WHEREAS, the Village of Morton Grove finds that decent, safe, and affordable housing is part of the American Dream and a goal of all Illinois residents; and

WHEREAS, individuals have the right to choose where to live without discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, gender, familial status, national origin, and/or disability; and

WHEREAS, acts of housing discrimination and barriers to equal housing opportunity are repugnant to a common sense of decency and fairness; and

WHEREAS, federal and state laws affirm the right of every person to equal housing opportunity; and

WHEREAS, fair housing is a positive community good; and

WHEREAS, economic stability, community health, and human relations in the State of Illinois are improved by diversity; and

WHEREAS, stable, integrated and balanced residential patterns are threatened by discriminatory acts and unlawful housing practices, resulting in segregation of residents and opportunities in our region; and

WHEREAS, the talents of grassroots and nonprofit organizations, housing service

providers, financial institutions, elected officials, state agencies, and others must be combined to promote and preserve fair housing and equal opportunity.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Daniel D. Scanlon, Mayor of the Village of Morton Grove, Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2005, as

NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

in Morton Grove and to establish it as an open and inclusive community committed to fair housing and to promote appropriate activities by private and public entities intended to provide or advocate for equal housing opportunities for all residents and prospective residents of the Village of Morton Grove.

In witness hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of Morton Grove.

Daniel D. Scanlon, Mayor