

10-19-16

ORDINANCE NO. 30246

An ordinance amending Chapter 20A, "Fair Housing," of the Dallas City Code by amending Sections 20A-2, 20A-3, 20A-4, 20A-5, 20A-7, and 20A-10; adding Section 20-4.1; prohibiting discrimination in housing practices on the basis of source of income; providing that a recipient of a subsidy shall not discriminate against holders of housing vouchers; providing that a multifamily housing accommodation that receives a financial award shall set aside ten percent of the dwelling units for housing voucher holders; providing a penalty not to exceed \$500; providing a saving clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That Section 20A-2, "Declaration of Policy," of Chapter 20A, "Fair Housing," of the Dallas City Code, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 20A-2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the city of Dallas, through fair, orderly, and lawful procedures, to promote the opportunity for each person to obtain housing without regard to race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, ~~[or]~~ national origin, or source of income. This policy is grounded upon a recognition of the right of every person to have access to adequate housing of the person's own choice, and the denial of this right because of race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, ~~[or]~~ national origin, or source of income is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the city and constitutes an unjust deprivation of rights, which is within the power and proper responsibility of government to prevent."

SECTION 2. That Section 20A-3, "Definitions," of Chapter 20A, "Fair Housing," of the Dallas City Code, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 20A-3. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter, unless the context requires a different definition:

(1) **ACCESSIBLE** means that an area of a housing accommodation can be approached, entered, and used by a person with a physical handicap.

(2) **ACCESSIBLE ROUTE** means a continuous unobstructed path connecting accessible elements and spaces in a housing accommodation that can be negotiated by a person with a severe disability using a wheelchair and that is also safe for and usable by a person with other disabilities.

(3) **ADMINISTRATOR** means the administrator of the fair housing office designated by the city manager to enforce and administer this chapter and includes the administrator's designated representative.

(4) **AGGRIEVED PERSON** means a person claiming to be injured by a discriminatory housing practice.

(5) **BUILDING ENTRANCE ON AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE** means an accessible entrance to a covered multi-family dwelling that is connected by an accessible route to public transportation stops, to accessible parking and passenger loading zones, or to the public streets or sidewalks, if available.

(6) **COMPLAINANT** means a person, including the administrator, who files a complaint under Section 20A-7.

(7) **COVERED MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING** means:

(A) a building consisting of four or more dwelling units if the building has one or more elevators; and

(B) a ground floor dwelling unit in any other building consisting of four or more dwelling units.

(8) **DEFENSE** means a defense to criminal prosecution in municipal court as explained in the Texas Penal Code. Defense also means, where specifically provided, an exemption from a civil action.

(9) **DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICE** means conduct that is an offense under Section 20A-4 of this chapter.

(10) **DWELLING UNIT** means a single unit of residence for a family.

(11) **FAMILIAL STATUS** means the status of a person resulting from being:

(A) pregnant;

(B) domiciled with an individual younger than 18 years of age in regard to whom the person:

(i) is the parent or legal custodian; or

(ii) has the written permission of the parent or legal custodian for domicile with the individual; or

(C) in the process of obtaining legal custody of an individual younger than 18 years of age.

(12) FAMILY includes a single individual.

(13) FINANCIAL AWARD means a designated public subsidy matter, as that term is defined in Section 12A-15.2 of this code, as amended, or any other loan, grant, tax abatement, or monies awarded by the city.

(14[3]) HANDICAP:

(A) means:

(i) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;

(ii) a record of an impairment described in Subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; or

(iii) being regarded as having an impairment described in Subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; and

(B) does not mean a current, illegal use of or addiction to a drug or illegal or federally-controlled substance.

(15[4]) HOUSING ACCOMMODATION means:

(A) any building, structure, or part of a building or structure that is occupied, or designed or intended for occupancy, as a residence for one or more families; or ~~and~~

(B) any vacant land that is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location of a building, structure, or part of a building or structure described by Paragraph (A) of this subsection.

(16[5]) PERSON means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, labor organization, legal representative, mutual company, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, trustee, receiver, or fiduciary or any employee, representative, or agent of the person.

(17[6]) RENT means lease, sublease, or otherwise grant for a consideration the right to occupy premises that are not owned by the occupant.

(18[7]) RESIDENCE does not include a hotel, motel, or similar public accommodation where occupancy is available exclusively on a temporary, day-to-day basis.

(19[8]) RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE-RELATED TRANSACTION means:

(A) the making or purchasing of loans or the providing of other financial assistance:

(i) for purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a housing accommodation; or

(ii) secured by residential real estate; or

(B) the selling, brokering, or appraising of residential real property.

(20[19]) RESPONDENT means a person identified in a complaint or charge as having committed a discriminatory housing practice under this chapter.

(21) SOURCE OF INCOME means lawful, regular, and verifiable income from whatever source derived (including housing vouchers and other subsidies provided by government or non-governmental entities, child support, or spousal maintenance), except as prohibited by Texas Local Government Code, Section 250.007, as amended. For purposes of housing accommodations that benefit from a subsidy approved by the city council on or after the effective date of this ordinance, source of income includes housing choice vouchers and other federal, state, and local housing subsidies.

(22) SUBSIDY means a designated public subsidy matter, as that term is defined in Section 12A-15.2 of this code, as amended, or a density bonus, and that was approved by the city council.

SECTION 3. That Section 20A-4, "Discriminatory Housing Practices," of Chapter 20A, "Fair Housing," of the Dallas City Code, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 20A-4. DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICES.

(a) A person commits an offense if he, because of race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, ~~[ø]~~ national origin, or source of income:

(1) refuses to negotiate with a person for the sale or rental of a housing accommodation or otherwise denies or makes unavailable a housing accommodation to a person;

(2) refuses to sell or rent, or otherwise makes unavailable, a housing accommodation to another person after the other person makes an offer to buy or rent the accommodation; or

(3) discriminates against a person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of, or in providing a service or facility in connection with, the sale or rental of a housing accommodation.

(b) A person commits an offense if he, because of race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, [ø] national origin, or source of income:

(1) represents to a person that a housing accommodation is not available for inspection, sale, or rental if the accommodation is available;

(2) discriminates against a prospective buyer or renter in connection with the showing of a housing accommodation; or

(3) with respect to a multiple listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other business relating to selling or renting housing accommodations:

(A) denies a person access to or membership in the business; or

(B) discriminates against a person in the terms or conditions of access to or membership in the business.

(c) A person commits an offense if he:

(1) for profit, induces or attempts to induce another person to sell or rent a housing accommodation by a representation that a person of a particular race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, [ø] national origin, or source of income is in proximity to, is present in, or may enter into the neighborhood in which the housing accommodation is located;

(2) makes an oral or written statement indicating a policy of the respondent or a person represented by the respondent to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, [ø] national origin, or source of income in the selling or renting of a housing accommodation; or

(3) prints or publicizes or causes to be printed or publicized an advertisement that expresses a preference or policy of discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, [ø] national origin, or source of income in the selling or renting of a housing accommodation.

(d) A person who engages in a residential real estate-related transaction commits an offense if he, because of race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, [ø] national origin, or source of income, discriminates against a person:

(1) in making a residential real estate-related transaction available; or

(2) in the terms or conditions of a residential real estate-related transaction.

(e) A person commits an offense if he:

(1) discriminates in the sale or rental of a housing accommodation to any buyer or renter because of a handicap of:

- (A) that buyer or renter;
 - (B) a person residing in or intending to reside in the housing accommodation after it is sold, rented, or made available; or
 - (C) any person associated with that buyer or renter; or
- (2) discriminates against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a housing accommodation, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with the housing accommodation, because of a handicap of:

- (A) that person;
- (B) a person residing in or intending to reside in the housing accommodation after it is sold, rented, or made available; or
- (C) any person associated with that person.

(f) A person commits an offense if he:

(1) refuses to permit, at the expense of a handicapped person, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by the handicapped person, if the modifications may be necessary to afford the handicapped person full use of the premises; except that, in the case of a rental, the landlord may, where reasonable to do so, condition permission for modification on the renter's agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted;

(2) refuses to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services when the accommodations may be necessary to afford a handicapped person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a housing accommodation;

(3) fails to design or construct a covered multi-family dwelling, for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, to have at least one building entrance on an accessible route, unless it is impractical to do so because of the terrain or unusual characteristics of the site; or

(4) fails to design and construct a covered multi-family dwelling, for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, that has a building entrance on an accessible route in such a manner that:

(A) the public and common use areas of the dwelling are readily accessible to and usable by a handicapped person;

(B) all the doors designed to allow passage into and within all premises are sufficiently wide to allow passage by a handicapped person in a wheelchair; and

(C) all premises within a dwelling unit contain the following features of adaptive design:

- (i) an accessible route into and through the dwelling unit;
- (ii) light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats, and other environmental controls in accessible locations;
- (iii) reinforcements in the bathroom walls to allow later installation of grab bars; and
- (iv) usable kitchens and bathrooms that allow a person in a wheelchair to maneuver about the space.

(g) A person commits an offense if he coerces, intimidates, threatens, or otherwise interferes with any person in the exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of that person having exercised or enjoyed, or on account of that person having aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected by this chapter.

(h) A person commits an offense if he retaliates against any person for making a complaint, testifying, assisting, or participating in any manner in a proceeding under this chapter.”

SECTION 4. That Chapter 20A, “Fair Housing,” of the Dallas City Code, as amended, is amended by adding Section 20A-4.1, “Housing Voucher Incentives,” to read as follows:

“SEC. 20A-4.1. HOUSING VOUCHER INCENTIVES.

In accordance with Section 250.007(c) of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended, the city hereby creates and implements the following voluntary program to encourage acceptance of housing vouchers, including vouchers directly or indirectly funded by the federal government.

(a) Subsidy. All housing accommodations that benefit from a subsidy approved by the city council on or after the effective date of this ordinance shall not discriminate against holders of any housing vouchers, including vouchers directly or indirectly funded by the federal government.

(b) Financial award. Multifamily housing accommodations that benefit from a financial award approved by the city council on or after the effective date of this ordinance shall set aside at least 10 percent of the dwelling units and solely lease those dwelling units to holders of housing vouchers, including vouchers directly or indirectly funded by the federal government, for a minimum of 15 years from the date of the initial issuance of the housing accommodation’s certificate of occupancy. Multifamily has the meaning assigned in Section 51A-4.209(b)(5) of the Dallas Development Code, as amended.”

SECTION 5. That Section 20A-5, "Defenses to Criminal Prosecution and Civil Action," of Chapter 20A, "Fair Housing," of the Dallas City Code, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 20A-5. DEFENSES TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND CIVIL ACTION.

(a) It is a defense to criminal prosecution or civil action under Section 20A-4 that:

(1) the housing accommodation is owned, controlled, or managed by:

(A) a religious organization, or a nonprofit organization that exists in conjunction with or is operated, supervised, or controlled by a religious organization, and the organization sells or rents the housing accommodation only to individuals of the same religion as the organization; except that, this defense is not available if:

(i) the offense involves discrimination other than on the basis of religion;

(ii) the organization owns, controls, or manages the housing accommodation for a commercial purpose; or

(iii) membership in the religion is limited to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, handicap, familial status, ~~or~~ national origin, or source of income.

(B) a nonprofit religious, educational, civic, or service organization or by a person who rents the housing accommodation to individuals, a predominant number of whom are associated with the same nonprofit religious, educational, civic, or service organization, and the organization or person, for the purposes of privacy and personal modesty, rents the housing accommodation only to individuals of the same sex or provides separate accommodations or facilities on the basis of sex; except that, this defense is not available if the offense involves:

(i) discrimination other than on the basis of sex; or

(ii) a sale of the housing accommodation; or

(C) a private organization and, incidental to the primary purpose of the organization, the organization rents the housing accommodation only to its own members; except that, this defense is not available if:

(i) the organization owns, controls, or manages the housing accommodation for a commercial purpose; or

(ii) the offense involves a sale of the housing accommodation;
or

(2) compliance with this chapter would violate a federal, state, or local law restricting the maximum number of occupants permitted to occupy a dwelling unit.

(b) It is a defense to criminal prosecution or civil action under all of Section 20A-4 except Section 20A-4(c)(2) and (3) that the housing accommodation is:

(1) a single-family dwelling owned by the respondent; except that, this defense is not available if the respondent:

(A) owns an interest or title in more than three single-family dwellings, whether or not located inside the city, at the time the offense is committed;

(B) has not resided in the dwelling within the preceding 24 months before the offense is committed; or

(C) uses the services or facilities of a real estate agent, or any other person in the business of selling or renting real estate, in connection with a sale or rental involved in the offense; or

(2) occupied or intended for occupancy by four or fewer families living independently of each other, and the respondent is the owner of the accommodation and occupies part of the accommodation as a residence; except that, this defense is not available if the offense involves a sale of all or part of the housing accommodation.

(c) It is a defense to criminal prosecution or civil action under Section 20A-4 as it relates to handicap that occupancy of a housing accommodation by the aggrieved person would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of another person or result in physical damage to another person's property.

(d) It is a defense to criminal prosecution or civil action under Section 20A-4 as it relates to familial status that the housing accommodation is:

(1) provided under a state or federal program that is specifically designed and operated to assist elderly persons, as defined in the state or federal program;

(2) intended for, and solely occupied by, a person at least 62 years of age, except that:

(A) an employee of the housing accommodation who performs substantial duties directly related to the management or maintenance of the housing accommodation may occupy a dwelling unit, with family members in the same unit; and

(B) a person under age 62 years residing in the housing accommodation on September 13, 1988 may occupy a dwelling unit, provided that all new occupants following that date are persons at least 62 years of age; and

(C) all vacant units are reserved for occupancy by persons at least 62 years of age; or

(3) intended and operated for occupancy by at least one person 55 years of age or older per dwelling unit, provided that:

(A) the housing accommodation has significant facilities and services specifically designed to meet the physical and social needs of an older person or, if it is not practicable to provide such facilities and services, the housing accommodation is necessary to provide important housing opportunities for an older person;

(B) at least 80 percent of the dwelling units in the housing accommodation are occupied by at least one person 55 years of age or older per dwelling unit; except that a newly constructed housing accommodation for first occupancy after March 12, 1989 need not comply with this requirement until 25 percent of the dwelling units in the housing accommodation are occupied; and

(C) the owner or manager of the housing accommodation publishes and adheres to policies and procedures that demonstrate an intent by the owner or manager to provide housing to persons at least 55 years of age.

(e) It is a defense to criminal prosecution or civil action under Section 20A-4(d) that the person, in the purchasing of loans, considered factors that were justified by business necessity and related to the transaction's financial security or the protection against default or reduction in the value of the security, but were unrelated to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, ~~or~~ national origin, or source of income.

(f) It is a defense to criminal prosecution under Section 20A-4 that the aggrieved person has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of the illegal manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance as defined by Section 481.002 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended, or by Section 802, Title 21 of the United States Code Annotated, as amended.

(g) It is a defense to criminal prosecution under Section 20A-4(d) that the person was engaged in the business of furnishing appraisals of real property and considered factors other than race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, ~~or~~ national origin, or source of income.

(h) It is a defense to criminal prosecution or civil action under Section 20A-4 regarding source of income that at least 10 percent of the dwelling units in a multifamily use, as defined in Section 51A-4.209(b)(5) of the Dallas Development Code, as amended, are leased to housing voucher holders.

(i) Nothing in this chapter prohibits:

(1) conduct against a person because of the person's conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction of the illegal manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance as defined by Section 481.002 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended, or by Section 802, Title 21 of the United States Code Annotated, as amended; or

(2) a person engaged in the business of furnishing appraisals of real property from taking into consideration factors other than race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, ~~[or]~~ national origin, or source of income.”

SECTION 6. That Subsection (c) of Section 20A-7, “Complaint and Answer,” of Chapter 20A, “Fair Housing,” of the Dallas City Code, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) A complaint must be in writing, made under oath or affirmation, and contain the following information:

- (1) Name and address of the respondent.
- (2) Name, address, and signature of the complainant.
- (3) Name and address of the aggrieved person, if different from the complainant.
- (4) Date of the occurrence or termination of the discriminatory housing practice and date of the filing of the complaint.
- (5) Description and address of the housing accommodation involved in the discriminatory housing practice, if appropriate.
- (6) Concise statement of the facts of the discriminatory housing practice, including the basis of the discrimination (race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, ~~[or]~~ national origin, or source of income).

SECTION 7. That Subsection (d) of Section 20A-10, “Conciliation,” of Chapter 20A, “Fair Housing,” of the Dallas City Code, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

“(d) A conciliation agreement executed under this section must contain:

- (1) an identification of the discriminatory housing practice and corresponding respondent that gives rise to the conciliation agreement under Subsection (a) and the identification of any other discriminatory housing practice and respondent that the parties agree to make subject to the limitation on prosecution in Subsection (b);

(2) an identification of the housing accommodation subject to the conciliation agreement; and

(3) a statement that each party entering into the conciliation agreement agrees:

(A) not to violate this chapter or the conciliation agreement; and

(B) that the respondent shall file with the administrator a periodic activity report, in accordance with the following regulations, if the discriminatory housing practice giving rise to the conciliation agreement under Subsection (a) involves a respondent who engages in a business relating to selling or renting housing accommodations; a housing accommodation occupied or intended for occupancy on a rental or sale basis; or a violation of Section 20A-4(d):

(i) Unless the discriminatory housing practice involves a violation of Section 20A-4(c)(1), the activity report must state, with respect to each person of the specified class (the race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, ~~of~~ national origin, or source of income alleged as the basis of discrimination in the complaint on the discriminatory housing practice) who in person contacts a party to the conciliation agreement concerning either sale, rental, or financing of a housing accommodation or a business relating to selling or renting housing accommodations, the name and address or telephone number of the person, the date of each contact, and the result of each contact.

(ii) If the discriminatory housing practice involves a violation of Section 20A-4(c)(1), the activity report must state the number and manner of solicitations concerning housing accommodations made by the party and the approximate boundaries of each neighborhood in which the solicitations are made.

(iii) The party who prepares the activity report must sign and verify the report.

(iv) An activity report must be filed each month on the date specified in the conciliation agreement for a period of not less than three months nor more than 36 months, as required by the conciliation agreement.”

SECTION 8. That a person violating any provision of this ordinance is, upon conviction, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

SECTION 9. That Chapter 20A of the Dallas City Code shall remain in full force and effect, save and except as amended by this ordinance.

SECTION 10. That any act done or right vested or accrued, or any proceeding, suit, or prosecution had or commenced in any action before the amendment or repeal of any ordinance, or part thereof, shall not be affected or impaired by amendment or repeal of any ordinance, or part

thereof, and shall be treated as still remaining in full force and effect for all intents and purposes as if the amended or repealed ordinance, or part thereof, had remained in force.

SECTION 11. That the terms and provisions of this ordinance are severable and are governed by Section 1-4 of Chapter 1 of the Dallas City Code, as amended.

SECTION 12. That this ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication in accordance with the provisions of the Dallas City Charter, and it is accordingly so ordained.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

LARRY E. CASTO, City Attorney

By Cheryl Kheas
Assistant City Attorney

Passed OCT 26 2016



PROOF OF PUBLICATION – LEGAL ADVERTISING

The legal advertisement required for the noted ordinance was published in the Dallas Morning News, the official newspaper of the city, as required by law, and the Dallas City Charter, Chapter XVIII, Section 7.

DATE ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL OCT 26 2016

ORDINANCE NUMBER 30246

DATE PUBLISHED OCT 29 2016

ATTESTED BY: