



**Scott O. Arneson**  
County Administrator  
Goodhue County

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509 W. Fifth St.  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
Office (651) 385.3001

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Scott O. Arneson

Date: March 28, 2023

Re: Fair Housing Month Proclamation

Attached you will find a request received from the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors (SPAAR) along with a resolution of support proclaiming April as *Fair Housing Month* in Goodhue County. This request has been submitted for the board's consideration.

## GOODHUE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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1<sup>st</sup> District  
1121 W 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Red Wing, MN 55066

BRAD ANDERSON  
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10679 375<sup>TH</sup> St. Way  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

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3<sup>rd</sup> District  
46804 Hwy 57 Blvd  
Wanamingo, MN 55992

JASON MAJERUS  
4<sup>th</sup> District  
39111 Co. 2 Blvd  
Goodhue, MN 55027

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5<sup>th</sup> District  
30133 Lakeview Ave.  
Red Wing, MN 55066

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SAINT PAUL AREA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

March 23, 2023

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 over 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 city 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 City Council 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 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

[sopatz@spaar.com](mailto:sopatz@spaar.com)

763-489-3306

## **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 [Public Entity] of [Your Community's Name] does hereby declare the month of April 2023 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].