

City of Ramsey, Minnesota
Fair Housing Policy
Adopted: September 10, 2019

1. Purpose/Vision

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act establishes federal policy for providing fair housing throughout the United States. The intent of Title VIII is to assure equal housing opportunities for all citizens. Furthermore, the City of Ramsey, as a recipient of Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Funds, ~~is obligated to certify that it~~ will affirmatively further fair housing.

The City of Ramsey ~~is committed to meeting this obligation, and~~ has developed this Fair Housing Policy to further that goal.

2. Fair Housing Policy Statement

It is the policy ~~and commitment~~ of the City of Ramsey to ensure that fair and equal housing opportunities are granted to all persons in all housing opportunities and development activities funded by the city regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to public assistances, familial status, national origin, or disability. This ~~shall will~~ be done through ~~strong external~~ policies that provide meaningful access to all constituents and fair housing informational and referral services; and internal practices and procedures do not discriminate and that affirmatively further fair housing.

3. External Practices

- a. Fair Housing Officer. The City of Ramsey has designated the Community Development Director as the Fair Housing Officer for the City.

The Fair Housing Officer will be responsible for the intake, processing, and referral of all fair housing complaints. While not expected to be an “expert” in fair housing laws, at a minimum the Officer will be familiar with state and federal fair housing laws, the complaint process for filing discrimination complaints, and the state and federal agencies that handle complaints.

Records showing the date, time and nature of the fair housing complaint, as well as the decisions made regarding the complaint process (referrals, information given, etc.) and any follow up action will be ~~fully~~ documented.

The Fair Housing Officer will also monitor city activities affecting fair housing and raise issues and concerns where appropriate.

- b. Meaningful Access

- i. Online Information. The City of Ramsey will have information about fair housing and its fair housing officer ~~prominently~~ displayed on its website. The website will also have links to various fair housing resources, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Mid- Minnesota Legal Aid, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, and others. The website will also link to state and federal fair housing complaint forms. In addition, the City will post the State of Minnesota’s Olmstead Plan and this City of Ramsey Fair Housing Policy.

- ii. In-Person Information. The City of Ramsey will provide fair housing information to anyone requesting such information at the city offices. The Community Development Department staff will provide information on the online webpage for fair housing resources.
- iii. Languages. The City ~~is committed to providing will work to provide~~ information in the native language of its residents. Therefore, the City will direct individuals to appropriate translation services that are available.

4. Internal Practices

The City of Ramsey ~~commits to takes~~ the following steps to promote awareness and sensitivity to fair housing issues in all of its government functions.

- a. Staff Training - the city will regularly train its staff and elected officials on fair housing considerations, including working with people with disabilities and limited English proficiency constituents. The following departments will receive annual training:
 - i. Planning and Zoning
 - ii. Building Inspections
 - iii. Reception/Front Desk Staff
 - iv. Public Safety Staff
 - v. Elected Officials
- b. Housing Analysis - the City will review its housing inventory ~~every ten years periodically~~ to examine the ~~affordability age and cost mix~~ of both rental and owner-occupied housing and whether all reasonable actions have been taken to remove barriers to ensure adequate housing choice for all city residents.
- c. Code Analysis - the City will review its municipal code ~~every ten years periodically~~, with specific focus on ordinances related to zoning, building and occupancy standards, to identify any potential for disparate impact or disparate treatment.
- d. Project Planning and Analysis - the City will make determinations in project planning with an eye to fair housing issues, ~~including whether potential projects may perpetuate segregation or lead to displacement of protected classes~~.
- e. Community Engagement - The City commits to ongoing community engagement. Specifically, the City commits to robust conversations with community regarding potential housing projects, zoning changes, and other land use planning decisions.

The City of Ramsey will review, revise if necessary, and adopt annually the Fair Housing Statement and the Fair Housing Plan.