TOWN OF CROMWELL
LBGTQ COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
April 21st, 2021
07:00 P.M.

AGENDA

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Apr 20,2021 02:31P
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL/PRONOUNS**
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**
5. **CHAIR REPORT**
6. **LIAISON REPORT**
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   A. Supporting Transgender Students
   B. Pride Walk
   C. LGBT ally and support training
   D. Resolution
9. **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION**
10. **ADJOURN**

Note: *This meeting will be held primarily over zoom, please contact Katelynn Puorro for further information.*

Resolution in Support of Right To Counsel Legislation on the Basis of Counteracting LGBTQ+ Discrimination

Whereas: In a 2018 survey, 73 percent of LGBT Americans said they were strongly concerned about housing discrimination from agents, landlords, and neighbors[1];

Whereas: According to data published by FreddieMac, trans and gender non-conforming individuals had nearly half the likelyhood to own their home in comparison to the general population, this number also being true for lgbt people of color[2];

Whereas: One paper commissioned by HUD reported that even states which have antidiscrimination laws such as Connecitcut, straight couples were still 16 perecent more likely to be treated favorably than gay male couples and 15.9 percent more likely to be treated favorably than lesbian couples when it came to finding housing[3];

Whereas: Nearly 2 in 10 trans and gender non-conforming people have been homeless at some point in their lives, and those same 2 in 10 were 2.5 times more likely to have been incarcerated[4];

Whereas: Nearly 2 in 10 trans and gender non-conforming people have been denied housing because of their gender identity and a little over 1 in 10 has been evicted due to being trans or gender non-conforming[4];

Whereas: According to another paper published by Harvard University, landlords will not rent to those who have been evicted, further worsening the situation of evicted tenants[5]; and

Whereas: Other literature has prescribed that one way to limit the power of discriminatory landlords to evict tenants would be to "minimiz[e] landlord discretion at the outset" which would "give them fewer opportunities to exercise that discretion in a discriminatory manner"[6];

Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Cromwell LGBT Committee urges the Connecticut General Assembly to pass legislation to—

- Establish access to an attorney as a right in eviction cases,
- Guarantee legal representation by not-for-profit legal service providers with expertise in housing law,
- Universally cover all residential tenants in all types of rental housing,
- Cover all evictions and all eviction-related cases, including administrative hearings,
- Fund for attorney training and support,
- Fund for tenant organizing, advocacy, and leadership development, and
- Establish affirmative litigation to enforce tenant rights.

Bibliography

1. Graves, Logan. "Issue at a Glance: LGBTQ Housing Discrimination." *victoryinstitute.org*, Victory Institute, 9 May 2018, https://victoryinstitute.org/lgbtq-housing-discrimination/.

2. FreddieMac, and Community Marketing & Insights. "The LGBT Community: Buying and Renting Homes." *FreddieMac.com*, May 2018, http://www.freddiemac.com/fmac-resources/research/pdf/Freddie_Mac_LGBT_Survey_Results_FINAL.pdf. Accessed 12 February 2021.

3. Friedman, Samantha, et al. "AN ESTIMATE OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SAME-SEX COUPLES." *huduser.gov*, https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/pdf/hsg_disc_against_samesexcpls_v3.pdf.

4. Grant, Jaime M., et al. "INJUSTICE AT EVERY TURN: A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TRANSGENDER DISCRIMINATION SURVEY." *The National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force*, 2011. *transequality.org*, https://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NTDS_Report.pdf.

5. Desmond, Matthew. "Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty." *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. Volume 118, no. Number 1, 2012, pp. 88-133. *scholar.harvard.edu*, https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/mdesmond/files/desmond.evictionpoverty.ajs2012.pdf. Accessed 13 January 2021.

6. Greenberg, Deena, et al. "Discrimination in Evictions: Empirical Evidence and Legal Challenges." *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, vol. 51, 2016, pp. 115-158. *scholar.harvard.edu*, https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/mdesmond/files/hlc106_crop.pdf.