

Proposed Resolution
Acknowledging and Verifying Harm with Intent to Remedy Harm Visited Upon
Alexandria Residents identified as African Americans (1930s – 1960s)

WHEREAS, the focus on this resolution was brought to the attention of the duly appointed members of the advisory Landlord-Tenant Relations Board (*hereafter referred to as the LTRB*) duly established by the Alexandria City Council in 1971, and

WHEREAS, after careful deliberation and review of the contents of a scholarly article penned in 2016, the LTRB decided to support an advisory motion listed in its approved May 2022 minutes now posted on the City’s website which reads:

“Based in part on Dr. Krysten Moon’s article, “The African American Housing Crisis in Alexandria, VA during the 1930s-1960s” which provides evidence of sanctioned policies and practices that systematically denied people of color identified as African American residents’ access to housing not denied to other people of color identified as Caucasian Americans during the 1930s-1960s, we ask that the City of Alexandria verify and acknowledge this with intent to correct the harm”; and

WHEREAS, given the City Council’s passage of Council Resolution #2974 issued on January 23, 2021, which we believe has the intent of addressing injustice as well as inequity in *“acknowledging Alexandria’s horrific history; recognizing the need and importance of community involvement to identify, develop and implement policies in the pursuit of equitable outcomes; and resolving to adopt practices and policies centered on creating and ensuring racial and social equity”*; and

WHEREAS, as duly elected members of the Alexandria City Council we deem it is the best interest of all Alexandrians that appropriate attention be given to not only acknowledging and verifying harm done to residents identified as African Americans, but any other residents who have just cause or reason to contend they too were harmed by sanctioned policies and practices that systematically denied them access to housing not denied others; direct that its Resolution #2974 be amended to insert and add justice as a component of concern in addition to equity where deemed appropriate, for example as follows:

1. Ensure that race, social equity, and justice are incorporated and centered in all planning [...]
2. Implement and sustain structures and systems to advance race, social equity, and justice [...]
3. Align and implement policy efforts designed to advance race, social equity, and justice goals [...]
4. Ensure accountability mechanisms related to the progression and transparency of work to advance race, social equity, and justice [...], and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that, given the added emphasis on justice in the All-Alexandria Initiative and support in the form of reliable documentation that has been acknowledged and verified by appropriate City authority, we the members of the Alexandria City Council direct the following actions be completed with dispatch, namely:

1. A list of residents believed to have just cause to claim harm based on public/private official documentation revealing irregular zoning practices intending to give one group of residents identified as Caucasian Americans and unfair advantage over those identified as African Americans – practices such as (a) Restrictive covenants, (b) Blockbusting, (c) Relining, (d) Eminent domain, and (e) Easements;
2. And other prima facie cases in the public or private domain for which there is just cause to attribute harm in the form of (a) Denial of loans; (b) Denial of purchase, and (c) Failure to investigate allegations of unfair housing practices during the period in question, plus over time.

Respectfully submit this Proposed Resolution to members of City County consideration and adoption.

Adopted: November 2, 2022

BONNIE NAUGLE, CHAIR

ATTEST:

Melodie Seau, Staff Liaison