

CHARLOTTESVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2023 HOUSING ADVOCACY PRIORITIES
RESOLUTION #: A23-1 (Plain Language)

The purpose of the Charlottesville Human Rights Commission is to act as a strong advocate for justice and equal opportunity.

The Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance says that the Charlottesville Human Rights Commission will:

- Collaborate with the public and private sectors to spread awareness and explore methods to reduce discrimination in the City
- Engage the community and provide a platform for community members to have open, honest conversations about inequity
- Identify systemic, discriminatory housing practices in the City

At the 04/06/2023 ad hoc Housing Committee meeting, the HRC agreed that its focus should be on housing from an equity perspective, especially in the area of race. The HRC would like to explore providing decent affordable housing for all residents of Charlottesville and help undo the racial inequities of Charlottesville's past. Specifically, we will:

- Work toward ensuring much more decent and affordable housing for all;
- Advocate to City Council to enact policies that will put into practice each of the above recommendations, including preserving and increasing Charlottesville's racial diversity, housing equity, and affordable housing;
- Work to undo historic racial inequities in housing, particularly those that were codified as official policies. These will include seeking reparations for those harmed by policies and their descendants, including the destruction of the Vinegar Hill;
- Work to enact policies to preserve and increase Black housing ownership in the City;
- Work to undo racial discrimination codified in our zoning with a focus on the creation of substantially more housing, with an emphasis on affordable housing, such as work to support the rezoning efforts underway in the City;
- Consider intersectionality, recognizing that people with disabilities, women, and other groups face particular barriers to accessing and preserving decent and safe housing;

- Work to enact policies to protect tenants, including to protect against unjust evictions and to ensure that all housing is decent and safe for human habitation.

Jessica A. Harris

7/14/2023

Jessica Harris, Chair, Human Rights Commission

Date

The Commission is guided by the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance: City code Article XV. Sec. 2-433. This Resolution supports Sec. 2-433 and Sec. 2-434 of the Human Rights Ordinance.