

ORDINANCE

PROHIBITING HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MILITARY VETERANS

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio recognizes the importance of providing equal housing opportunities for all residents, including veterans who rely on federal housing assistance programs, such as Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and other services provided through the Veteran Assistance Supportive Housing (VASH) program; and

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code, Sec. 250.007 (b), authorizes the city to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the refusal to rent a housing accommodation to a military veteran because the veteran's lawful source of income to pay rent includes federal housing assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, as Military City, U.S.A., the City of San Antonio affirms its commitment to supporting the rights of veterans to live in safe, decent, and quality housing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. Definitions

"Housing Provider" means a developer, owner, lessee, sublessee, assignee, managing agent, or other person having the right to lease, sublease, or rent a housing accommodation to another person or group of people.

"Federal Housing Assistance Program" means federally assisted housing as defined in 24 C.F.R. § 5.100, as amended, an includes Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and programs provided to veterans through the Veteran Assisted Supportive Housing Program (VASH). For purposes of this ordinance, Federal Housing Assistance Programs constitute lawful sources of income.

"Veteran" means persons that served in any branch of the United States Military.

SECTION 2. Prohibition of Source of Income Discrimination

A Housing Provider within the jurisdiction of the City of San Antonio is prohibited from refusing to lease or rent a housing accommodation to a Veteran because of the Veteran's lawful source of income to pay rent includes funding through a Federal Housing Assistance Program..

SECTION 3. Implementation and Enforcement

a. A violation of this ordinance carries a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

- b. The City of San Antonio shall enforce this ordinance through regular inspections, monitoring, and investigation of complaints filed by Veterans who believe they have been subjected to source of income discrimination in the City of San Antonio.
- c. Upon finding a violation of this ordinance, in addition to the fine assessed under Section 2 of this ordinance, the Housing Provider may be subject to mandatory compliance training.
- d. Complaints regarding violations of this ordinance may be filed with the City's Neighborhood and Housing Services Department- Fair Housing Division or the City's Compliance, Opportunity & Access office.

SECTION 4. Notice and Publicity

The City of San Antonio shall provide notice of this ordinance through various means to ensure Housing Providers and the public are aware of their rights and responsibilities under this ordinance, including in a newspaper of general circulation as provided by law. Notice may include, but is not limited to, publication on the official City website, distribution to housing provider associations, and dissemination through local media outlets.

SECTION 5. Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective on [insert effective date], after its passage by a majority vote of the City Council and compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

PASSED AND APPROVED this [insert date] day of [insert month], 2026.