

Resolution No.:	<u>20-769</u>
Introduced:	<u>March 18, 2025</u>
Adopted:	<u>April 1, 2025</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Glass
Co-Sponsors: Council President Stewart and Councilmembers Mink, Friedson, Katz, Luedtke,
Balcombe, Fani-González, Albornoz, and Sayles

SUBJECT: Resolution Uplifting Fair Housing Month and Affirming Montgomery County's
Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Background

1. Montgomery County is one of the most diverse jurisdictions in the nation, with nearly 61 percent of residents identifying as people of color and 35 percent of residents born outside the United States.
2. Over 162 languages are spoken in Montgomery County Public Schools, reflecting the County's cultural and linguistic diversity.
3. Montgomery County has taken proactive steps to advance racial equity and social justice, including enacting the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act, which requires Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements and Assessments for bills, Zoning Text Amendments, and appropriations.
4. The County acknowledges its history of racially restrictive housing covenants, which, although outlawed, have left a lasting impact on housing accessibility and economic disparities.
5. Fair Housing Month 2025 commemorates 57 years since the passage of the Fair Housing Act ("Act"). The Act, also referred to as Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibits discrimination on the basis of "race, color, religion, or national origin in the sale or rental of housing", and as amended, discrimination based on sex, physical and mental disability, and familial status.
6. There was a period in our County's history when these racial covenants prohibited people of certain races, ethnicities, or nationalities from owning, renting, leasing, or occupying properties. Domestic servants of different race or nationality employed by an owner or a tenant were exempted.

7. The Mapping Segregation Project (the “Project”), led by the Montgomery County Planning Department, provides a valuable tool for residents to understand historical segregation patterns and redress past injustices.
8. Montgomery County urges residents to utilize the Project’s database to learn about and redress historic injustices by modifying racially restrictive language in their deeds at no cost.
9. The County Council is committed to proactively eliminating structural and institutional barriers to housing and fostering equitable housing policies for all residents.
10. Montgomery County is a diverse, welcoming, and inclusive community for all residents.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The Montgomery County Council acknowledges the long history of racial inequities in housing discrimination and is committed to continuing to advocate for and support underrepresented communities.
2. Montgomery County will continue to advance policies that promote racial equity in housing, education, and economic opportunity.
3. The Council affirms all racial covenants within Montgomery County are null, unenforceable, and contrary to public policy.
4. The Council urges all property owners to modify racially restrictive covenants from deeds through the State of Maryland’s legal process, which is free and does not require a court appearance.
5. The County Council affirms its commitment to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring that all residents—regardless of race, ethnicity, or national origin—have equal access to housing opportunities and a community free from discrimination.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council