## COUNTY OF ELK AND On behalf of (OBO) RIDGWAY BOROUGH FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04

LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS of the County of Elk and the Ridgway Borough that discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status (families with children), or handicap (disability) is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Act) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act adds the additional protected classes of age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. It is the policy of the County of Elk and the Ridgway Borough to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status, handicap, age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. Therefore, the County of Elk and the Ridgway Borough do hereby pass the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that within available resources the County of Elk and the Ridgway Borough will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status, handicap, age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the local Fair Housing Officer (Kathy McClelland – Elk County Planning Department, PO Box 448, 300 Center Street, Ridgway, PA 15853), Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, whichever is chosen by the person filing the complaint.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the County of Elk and the Ridgway Borough shall make publicly known this Resolution and through this publicity shall cause owners of real estate, developers, and builders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and any local laws or ordinances.

FURTHER ACTION will at a minimum include, but not to be limited to:

- (1) Publicizing the name and contact information of the local Fair Housing Officer, which will include the process to file a complaint if a person feels they have been discriminated against in housing in any manner and other applicable fair housing information through local media and community contracts; and
- (2) Conduct at least one fair housing activity annually to better inform the public of their rights under the Fair Housing Law and Pennsylvania Human Relations Act; and
- (3) Use the fair housing logo on all materials dealing with housing programs such as but not limited to:
  - a. Public advertisements for vacancy or discussing the program
  - b. Applications for assistance
  - c. Contracts
  - d. Municipal letters dealing with the federal programs

If you're a person with a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to be able to access any notification, please contact the Elk County Planning Department, 300 Center Street, Ridgway, PA, (814) 776-5335, kmcclelland@countyofelkpa.com.

If you have Limited English Proficiency and require a document translation of any notification, please contact the Elk County Planning Department at the address listed above.

Approved at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Elk County Commissioners held February 7th, 2023.

**COUNTY OF ELK** 

ATTEST\_\_\_\_ Chief Clerk

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Elk County Board of Commissioners

Joseph C. Daghir, Chairperson

M. Fritz Lecker, Commissioner

Matthew G. Quesenberry, Commissioner