

## **CITY OF VESTA, MINNESOTA**

### **FAIR HOUSING POLICY**

#### **I. Policy Statement**

It shall be the policy and commitment of the City of Vesta to ensure that fair and equal housing opportunities are granted to all persons, in all housing opportunities and development activities in the City of Vesta regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful source of income, familial status, national origin, ancestry, age or mental or physical disability. The City of Vesta is fully committed to complying with all Federal and State nondiscrimination laws; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations governing Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status, disability, creed, real or perceived sexual or affectional orientation, gender identity, marital status, or receipt of public assistance, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any actions in the City of Vesta.

The City of Vesta commits to providing and promoting racial and economic integration in any housing development and will take affirmative steps to reach beneficiaries from all racial and ethnic groups as well as the physically or mentally handicapped and families with children and to reach a broad range of income eligible beneficiaries for appropriate and applicable housing opportunities.

To further its commitment of full compliance with applicable Fair Housing laws, the City of Vesta will provide Federal/State/local information to applicants regarding discrimination and any recourse available to them if they believe they may be the victims of discrimination. Such information will be made available to them upon request. The information and resources on how to file a fair housing complaint include:

- HUD's National Fair Housing Complaint Hotline: 1-800-669-9777. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-887-8339. Website: [www.hud.gov/complaints](http://www.hud.gov/complaints)
- HUD's Chicago Regional Fair Housing Office: 1-800-765-9372. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling 1-312-353-7143. Website: [www.hud.gov/complaints](http://www.hud.gov/complaints)
- The Minnesota Department of Human Rights: 1-800-657-3704. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling: 1-296-1283. Website: [www.humanrights.state.mn.us](http://www.humanrights.state.mn.us)
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: 1-888-575-2954. Website: [www.smrls.org](http://www.smrls.org)
- HomeLine: 612-728-5767. Website: [www.homelinemn.org](http://www.homelinemn.org)

#### **II. Selection of Fair Housing Officer**

In accordance with Title VIII, Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, the Fair Housing Officer below has been designated by the City of Vesta to handle fair housing complaints and activities:

*Jacob Kolander*  
*City of Vesta Clerk/Treasurer*  
*150 Front Street*  
*P.O. Box 7*  
*Vesta, Minnesota 56292*  
*Telephone: (507) 762-3140*  
*Facsimile: (507) 762-3069*

The Fair Housing Officer is responsible for the intake and processing of all housing complaints as well as implementation of the Fair Housing Plan activities and actions. While not expected to be an "expert" in Fair Housing Laws, at a minimum, the officer will be familiar with the complaint process and Federal and State Laws, which address Fair Housing. Records which show the date, time, nature of complaint and decisions made in the complaint process(es) will be fully documented. A separate file will maintain a record of all housing discrimination complaint and follow-up actions.

### III. Complaint Process

Housing discrimination complaint forms, as well as a summary of actions which may constitute housing discrimination and instructions for completing and filing housing discrimination complaints, will be made available to citizens. Complaints need not be made on official forms to be valid. The City of Vesta will assist any family that believes they suffered illegal discrimination by completing the forms, if requested, and will provide them with the address and contact information of the nearest Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

### IV. Amendments

The City of Vesta shall amend and revise this Plan as required to keep current with State/ Federal affirmative action and equal opportunity policies and procedures and local actions and activities to further the purposes of this Plan.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
City of Vesta  
10-12-17  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk  
City of Vesta  
10-12-17  
Date