



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

September 5, 2023

Ordinance amending Title 2, entitled “Human Rights,” Chapter 1, entitled “General Provisions,” to eliminate the prohibition on landlords discriminating against Housing Choice Voucher (aka, Section 8) holders. (Second Consideration)

Prepared By:	Susan Dulek, First Ass't. City Attorney
Reviewed By:	Geoff Fruin, City Manager Stefanie Bowers, Equity Director
Fiscal Impact:	None
Staff Recommendation:	Approval
Commission Recommendations:	N/A
Attachments:	Ordinance

Executive Summary:

The City Code prohibits landlords from refusing to lease to tenants who have Housing Choice Vouchers (aka, Section 8), which is unenforceable as of Jan. 1, 2023 due to a recent change in state law.

Background / Analysis:

The City Code prohibits landlords from refusing to lease to tenants who have Housing Choice Vouchers (aka, Section 8). In 2021 the Iowa legislature passed and the Governor signed SF 252, which is codified at Section 364.3(16) of the Iowa Code, preempting local governments from enforcing an ordinance that prohibits a landlord from “refusing to lease or rent out the dwelling unit to a person because of the person’s use of a federal housing choice voucher issued by the United States department of housing and urban development” after Jan. 1, 2023. This ordinance removes the discrimination provision because it no longer is enforceable under state law.