Good Afternoon Councilman(woman) (NAME),

I am writing to you to ask for your support in amending the City’s Fair Housing Ordinance to outlaw Source of Income Discrimination (SOID). 

I, in solidarity with 30 local organizations, support adding language to the Charlotte Fair Housing Ordinance that holds landlords and property owners accountable and prohibits discriminatory practices that keep Charlotteans from gaining housing. The current language in the ordinance does not specifically prevent landlords from denying housing to prospective tenants who are paying with income other than a paycheck, such as Section 8 vouchers, Veterans’ benefits, child support, student loans, and Social Security payments. Those paying with income other than their wages, if denied housing, may become homeless or transient as a result.

I believe that housing is a right and not a privilege. As we are all aware, Black Americans have been systematically denied equal rights and opportunities throughout our country’s history. The effects of long-standing discrimination linger and perpetuate disparities in income, housing, education, criminal justice, and health outcomes. It is our shared responsibility to make sure that our community members, including people of color, are not denied safe, decent housing due to source of income discrimination.

I thank you for your work to continue to make this city a better place and look forward to your support in amending the fair housing ordinance that will give our community members fair access to safe, affordable housing.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION