

PROCLAMATION

by the Mayor and City Council
City of Rock Hill, South Carolina

Homeownership is the American Dream, and it is close to the heart of The City of Rock Hill. There is a special power in a neighborhood where most families own their homes. A new homeowner receives a key that does more than unlock a door: it represents a place where children can grow, learn, and feel safe; an opportunity to save money and build equity for the future; and a sense of stability and belonging to the greater community. And just as it builds strong families, homeownership is the building block of strong communities, too.

More Americans are homeowners today than at any time in our history; even so, less than half of African-American and Hispanic families own their own homes. As leaders of the City of Rock Hill, we are committed to helping more citizens - especially those who have been shut out in the past - know the joy, the financial security, and the sense of community that comes with owning their own home.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is providing families with tools and information they can use to overcome the barriers that deny homeownership to far too many Americans. The Department is working in partnership with state and local governments, community groups, and the private sector to make the most effective use of federal funds. Through a combination of housing counseling, down payment assistance, and tax incentives, we are helping thousands of Americans buy homes - and live the lives they had once only imagined.

Home ownership is good for the homebuyer, for the city and our country. It is the American Dream, and during National Homeownership Month, we rededicate ourselves to that dream and to every American who seeks to achieve it.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Doug Echols, Mayor of the City of Rock Hill, South Carolina, and the Rock Hill City Council do hereby proclaim the month June, 2009 as

NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

in Rock Hill, South Carolina and call upon its residents to join us in recognizing the importance of providing every citizen with the opportunity to achieve their own American Dream.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Seal of the City of Rock Hill to be affixed.

Doug Echols, Mayor