

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution ratifying the housing-related amendments to the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This evening, staff are seeking adoption of the Resolution ratifying the housing-related amendments to the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10320.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**Bellevue City Council Consideration**

On September 25, Council received a briefing on the King County Council's housing-related amendments to the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs). The amended CPPs respond to changes in the Growth Management Act (GMA), chapter 36.70A RCW, which require local jurisdictions, like Bellevue, to "plan for and accommodate" housing affordable to all economic segments of the population as part of their comprehensive plans. The County, through the GMA planning process and adoption of the CPPs, amended and allocated the countywide housing needs by income level to each city within its jurisdiction and to the urban unincorporated areas of King County. The GMA and the CPP amendments require the City to plan for and accommodate the local need for Bellevue that is now identified in the CPPs.

Following the September 25 briefing, Council directed staff to prepare legislation ratifying the amendments to the CPPs, and Council requested additional information on the potential implications of the City not meeting the jurisdictional housing needs by area median income included in the CPPs. The CPPs recognize that cities are not required to produce all of the allocated housing units, rather to ensure there is adequate capacity and policies in place to support and accommodate the allocation over the 20-year planning horizon.

The King County Council approved and ratified the housing-related amendments on behalf of unincorporated King County on August 15. For the amendments to become effective they must be ratified by at least 30 percent of city and county governments representing 70 percent of the population of King County within 90 days of notification by King County, or by November 30. Under the provisions of the CPPs, cities can take formal action to either ratify or disapprove the CPP amendments. No action is deemed to be the same as ratification. Cities are not allowed to modify the CPPs as part of the ratification process.

Background on Countywide Planning Policy Amendments

On December 14, 2021, the King County Council approved and ratified the 2021 Countywide Planning Policies and 2021 Urban Growth Capacity Report on behalf of unincorporated King County via King County Ordinance 19384. The chapters of the CPPs were updated to establish a shared framework for growth management planning for all jurisdictions in King County and to align with the Multicounty Planning Policies and Regional Growth Strategy contained in the Puget Sound Regional Council's *VISION 2050*. These amendments met the required ratification threshold, including ratification by the Bellevue City Council through the adoption of Resolution 10080 on March 28, 2022.

King County Ordinance 19384, through motion 21-1, also directed the Growth Management Planning Council's (GMPC's) Affordable Housing Committee to conduct additional policy work relating to affordable housing in 2022 and 2023. Mayor Robinson serves as a Sound Cities Representative on the Affordable Housing Committee. In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1220, which substantively amended the GMA to require jurisdictions to plan for and accommodate housing needs at all income levels as part of their comprehensive plans. Consistent with these changes to the GMA, as codified in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.070(2), the Washington State Department of Commerce provided estimates of existing and future housing needs at the county level and guidance for local governments on how counties, cities, and towns should work together to allocate the identified existing and future housing need to jurisdictions.

The GMPC is responsible for reviewing and recommending CPP amendments to the King County Council. The GMPC is composed of elected officials from the King County Council, Seattle, Bellevue, Sound Cities Association, and special purpose districts. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis is Bellevue's representative on the GMPC. The CPPs serve as the framework for each local jurisdiction's comprehensive plan, which ensures countywide consistency with respect to land use and planning efforts.

On March 22, the GMPC unanimously recommended approval of housing-related amendments to the 2021 CPPs to the King County Council, as reflected in Attachment A. The amendments:

- Establish countywide and jurisdictional housing need, informed by local data and guidance provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce;
- Establish an accountability framework for equitably meeting countywide affordable housing needs;
- Align monitoring requirements with the new accountability framework; and
- Align the policies with GMA amendments enacted through House Bill 1220.

The amendments to the CPPs provide direction to jurisdictions in planning for housing need at all income levels. This need represents jurisdictions demonstrating that they have adequate zoned capacity to accommodate this need. It could also inform future policy discussions that the Council may choose to have relating to setting affordable housing goals and targets for Bellevue. The goals and targets could also be informed by Council vision, priorities, and the recently completed 2022 Bellevue Housing Needs Assessment. The amendment CPPs, as well as state guidance in the GMA and associated regulations, also provide guidance and implementation strategies for cities to utilize in connection with their efforts to plan for and accommodate housing need at all income levels.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The CPPs inform Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and how the City addresses growth over the next 20 years. Amendments to the CPPs will be reflected in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Fiscal Impact

Though there is no direct fiscal impact from ratification of the CPP amendments, the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and implementation may influence future decision making and proposed investments. Investments outside of the scope of the current biennial budget may be proposed in future budgets for Council approval.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution ratifying the housing-related amendments to the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Correspondence from King County regarding ratification
- B. King County Council and GMPC Ordinances on amendments to the 2021 King County CPPs
Proposed Resolution No. 10320

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A