



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 15, 2017

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: Dan Stroh, Planning Director
Arthur Sullivan, ARCH Program Manager
Janet Lewine, Associate Planner
Department of Planning and Community Development

Subject: Affordable Housing Week

The City of Bellevue recognizes that all people should have access to safe, healthy and affordable housing. Among the Council's adopted two-year priorities is to "develop an affordable housing plan for the needs of our diverse population".

The City has many partners in addressing affordable housing, including member jurisdictions of ARCH, A Regional Coalition for Housing, the King County Housing Authority, the faith community, and local housing nonprofits.

The issues of affordable housing and homelessness have hit a crisis point in our area. Across King County, 127,000 households are paying more than half their income for housing costs, and 4,505 individuals were found sleeping outdoors during the 2016 One Night Count. These challenges are touching every corner, every city, and every school district of King County. During the 2015-16 school year, 8,107 students across King County were identified as homeless, an 11 percent increase over the previous school year. This includes 249 students in the Bellevue School District.

By increasing attention to this issue and by working together, across jurisdictions and across sectors, our objective is to turn the tide to ensure all people have access to a safe, healthy, affordable home.

Bellevue has responded by developing an Affordable Housing Strategy, to implement new tools to ensure affordable housing opportunities are available throughout the City at a range of affordability levels.

As the City considers adoption and implantation of the Affordable Housing Strategy, we recognize the need to increase affordable housing in Bellevue by pledging to declare **May 15-22 Affordable Housing Week**. Through Affordable Housing Week, we are working with our partners to elevate understanding of the need for affordable housing and discuss potential solutions.

Attachment: Proclamation