



DATE: July 26, 2017

TO: Chair deVadoss and Planning Commission Members

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SUBJECT: Bellevue's Affordable Housing Strategy

One of the Council's adopted priorities is to "develop an affordable housing plan for the needs of our diverse population." The *Affordable Housing Strategy* (AHS – Attachment A) that was approved by Council on June 5, 2017, addresses the Council's priority to by identifying actions that can be taken to improve affordable housing opportunities throughout the city. The AHS represents a culmination of more than one year of research, analysis, review and input from the technical advisory group (TAG), stakeholders and the public.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The AHS consists of five interrelated strategies and a set of actions for each that are designed to address key aspects of this complex issue:

- A. Help people stay in their affordable housing
- B. Create a variety of housing choices
- C. Create more affordable housing
- D. Unlock housing supply by making it easier to build
- E. Prioritize state, county and local funding for affordable housing.

In addition to a description of the five strategies and the related actions, the AHS report includes summaries of Bellevue's housing need, implementation of the strategy, existing programs, how the strategy was developed, and a program for monitoring the progress of implementation and performance. Implementation is expected to occur over the next two to three years and result in at least 2,500 more affordable housing units over the next ten years. The performance monitoring includes regular reports to Council and the ability to adjust the strategies as needed.

The Affordable Housing Strategy is consistent with the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, and more specifically:

Comprehensive Plan Policy HO-24:

Develop and implement an effective strategy to ensure affordable housing opportunities are available in Downtown and throughout the City at a range of affordability levels. Monitor

quantity, types, and affordability of housing achieved for potential unintended consequences and to determine if the need is being met.

Economic Development Plan Strategy E.1:

Develop a City-wide strategy to expand workforce housing options by exploring all manner of tools, including a multifamily tax exemption program, a revolving fund for transit-oriented development, zoning changes, and other options.

Staff will provide an overview of the report with a focus on the strategies and actions and the implementation program.

Requested Commission action tonight

Request	Summary Guidance
1. No action is required of the Planning Commission.	This item is presented for information.

Attachments

A. *Affordable Housing Strategy*, June 5, 2017