



January 28, 2025

City of Olympia Mayor and City Council
Olympia Planning Commission

Honorable Mayor Payne and City of Olympia Councilmembers,

As part of the Olympia 2045 update of the Comprehensive Plan, the City Council has provided the Social Justice and Equity Commission with an opportunity to weigh in on the draft chapters to offer equity-related recommendations. This letter is intended to share with you the Commission's conversation regarding the Economy chapter, on which the Commission received a briefing at our May 20, 2024, meeting.

The Commission discussed the Economy chapter with Economic Development staff and had the opportunity to ask questions related to how equity is addressed in the chapter and how it was considered during its development. Discussion focused on the significant amount of public engagement for the Olympia Strong process and the periodic update of this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioners heard confirmation from staff that labor groups had been engaged in the development of the Olympia Strong plan so that, subsequently, that perspective informed the Chapter update.

The Commission appreciates the chapter's new focus on people and partnerships, with an emphasis on the areas of:

- Education and Workforce Pathways
- English as Second Language and Workforce Opportunities for Immigrants
- Engaging Labor Groups in Outreach
- Housing and Sense of Security
- Business Enterprises and Support
- Community Lovability, Pride and Resiliency

Lastly, Commissioners wanted to ensure that the Chapter incorporated support for newly relocated immigrants, particularly in accessing workforce development opportunities and language classes.

We believe the chapter supports the need for people in our community to have economic stability and opportunities for success in way the reflects the values and identity of Olympia. The Social Justice and Equity Commission did not request any amendments to the chapter. We thank the City Council for the opportunity to review and comment on this chapter.

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Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Rosen-Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robin" being more prominent.

Robin Rosen-Evans, Vice Chair
Social Justice & Equity Commission

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