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To: City of Olympia Mayor and City Council

Cc: Olympia Planning Commission

July 28, 2025

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 Community Values & Vision chapter, on which the Commission received a briefing at our July 28, 2025, meeting.

The Commission discussed the Community Values & Vision chapter with Community Planning and 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. The Commission's discussion centered around the following topics:

- Addition of language about gender and sexual identity. Commissioners expressed support for inclusion of language supporting LGBTQIA2S+ and use of "gender identity and/or expression"
- Definitions of "sanctuary city" used to guide inclusion in the Chapter, and how to include intention of the Council proclamations into the chapter. Use of language from previous City Council proclamations and resolutions to guide revised language in the chapter.
- Definition of terms and what harm (behaviors) the City is trying to avoid and intending to address through vision and values statements. Also discussed frequency of updates to the plan to allow for additional input from community as our community grows.
- Lack of inclusion of specific language around spirituality or religious protections in the current draft. Also discussed if language will be general or identify specific religious groups. Staff confirmed planned addition of language around religious beliefs to the chapter consistent with Washington State's list of protected classes.
- The plan for addition of language around protections for military service members and their families, veterans, marital status, LGBTQIA2S+ supported by the commission.

We appreciate the opportunity to review goals and policies within the Community Values & Vision chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, provide feedback on the updated process, and learn how this work promotes equitable growth and development in our community.

Best Regards,

Robin Rosen-Evans, Chair
Social Justice & Equity Commission
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