

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,
ACCEPTING THE CITY OF OLYMPIA HOUSING ACTION PLAN**

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1923, encouraging cities planning under the Washington State Growth Management Act to take actions to increase residential building capacity and subsequently making grant funds available to cities for the purpose of developing Housing Action Plans; and

WHEREAS, taking action to address local challenges with housing affordability and homelessness is a key priority of the City of Olympia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has taken significant actions in the past few years to address housing needs, including adopting a Home Fund to provide permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, adopting more flexible codes and pre-approved plan sets to encourage accessory dwelling units, and increasing allowed housing types in residential zones; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of our shared housing market, the cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater (the Cities) agreed to collaborate on the development of a draft Housing Action Plan to identify additional actions the cities can take to increase housing supply, diversity, and affordability; and

WHEREAS, with help from the Thurston Regional Planning Council, the Cities completed a Housing Needs and Gap Analysis to identify trends and data on demographics, housing, and income to better understand the amount and type of housing needed over the next 25 years to ensure residents will have access to adequate and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the Cities each carried out their own public review process to determine which actions to include in their city-specific Housing Action Plans; and

WHEREAS, Thurston County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Washington and is expected to grow in population from 294,000 to more than 380,000 by 2045, with 65% of the population living in the Cities and their urban growth areas; and

WHEREAS, increasing the overall supply of housing is important, as Olympia and its urban growth area are projected to need approximately 14,000 new housing units between 2020 and 2045 to keep pace with population growth; and

WHEREAS, increasing the diversity of housing types, including options for aging seniors, is important because Olympia's demographics and household characteristics are increasingly varied, and one quarter of the population is expected to be over the age of 65 by 2045; and

WHEREAS, increasing housing affordability is important because affordable rents and homeownership are increasingly out of reach for many households, and over 40% of Olympians spend more than 30% of their income on housing; and

WHEREAS, providing safe, stable options for rental housing and pathways to homeownership are important because only when residents have safe, stable, and affordable housing are they able to truly thrive and take advantage of other life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the existing housing stock in our community, including improving energy efficiency and air quality, is important because it helps to preserve existing affordable housing and ensure safe habitation for residents; and

WHEREAS, increasing affordable and permanent supportive housing options for people experiencing homelessness is vital to address growing homelessness in our region; and

WHEREAS, increasing permanent housing options for people with disabilities is important to ensure fair and equal access to housing options; and

WHEREAS, increasing equity is an overarching theme of the City of Olympia Housing Action Plan, and taking action to address housing affordability is important for increasing racial equity by expanding housing choices and opportunities for people of color who are disproportionately of lower income, less likely to be homeowners, and more likely to be homeless than white, non-Hispanic people in Thurston County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia Housing Action Plan (the Plan) identifies six strategies for addressing these housing needs, including: 1) increase the supply of permanently affordable housing for households that make 80% or less of the area median income; 2) make it easier for households to access housing and remain housed; 3) expand the overall housing supply by making it easier to build all types of housing projects; 4) increase the variety of housing choices; 5) continually build on resources, collaboration, and public understanding to improve implementation of housing strategies; and 6) establish a permanent source of funding for low-income housing; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies over 50 actions the City of Olympia can take to implement these strategies, including policies, regulations and incentives, investments, and partnerships, as well as public engagement and legislative advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the Olympia Planning Commission held a public hearing to gather feedback on the Plan on May 17, 2021, and submitted a letter to the City Council summarizing what they heard; and

WHEREAS, the Land Use and Environment Committee reviewed the Plan on May 27, 2021 and June 17, 2021, and recommended approval of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is an extension of ongoing housing work by the City of Olympia that further defines Olympia's roadmap and performance measures for future implementation and collaboration with the Cities, as well as Thurston County and the Regional Housing Council; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will also inform the next periodic update to Olympia's Comprehensive Plan Housing Element;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

Section 1. The City of Olympia Housing Action Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, is accepted by the Olympia City Council.

Section 2. The City of Olympia Housing Action Plan is not binding on future Comprehensive Plan or development regulation amendments, but rather, provides general guidance on the drafting of future proposals. The City Council will consider such future actions based on public participation and records created at that time.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2021.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber

CITY ATTORNEY