

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA AND THURSTON COUNTY TO COMBINE THE OLYMPIA AND THURSTON COUNTY HOME FUNDS AS PERMITTED BY STATE LAW

WHEREAS, RCW 39.34.010 permits local governmental units to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with other localities on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population and other factors influencing the needs and development of local communities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 39.34.080, each party is authorized to contract with any one or more other public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity, or undertaking which each public agency entering into the contract is authorized by law to perform: provided, that such contract shall be authorized by the governing body of each party to the contract and shall set forth its purposes, powers, rights, objectives and responsibilities of the contracting parties;

WHEREAS, on February 13, 2018, voters in the City of Olympia approved an additional one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) sales and use tax as provided by RCW 82.14.530. Subsequently, on March 6, 2018, the Olympia City Council passed Ordinance No. 7127 authorizing the imposition of the sales and use tax increase in the City of Olympia to construct low-income affordable housing and housing related services, including mental and behavioral health-related facilities, as permitted by RCW 82.14.530; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2022, the Olympia City Council approved a Resolution of Support of a Thurston County Home Fund and Intent to Partner with Thurston County, should the County take action to create a Home Fund. The Council further found that homelessness was caused by a variety of factors and that homelessness is a public health emergency existing in Olympia and Thurston County. The Council further resolved to partner with Thurston County to coordinate use of the City's and County's respective Home Fund revenues to provide housing and housing-related services to homeless persons residing within Thurston County and the City of Olympia, in coordination with the Regional Housing Council ("RHC") to achieve a regional decision-making process for the combined Olympia and County Home Fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2022, the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners passed Ordinance No. 16128, imposing an additional sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for housing and housing related services as authorized by RCW 82.14.530, permitting the legislative authority of a county or city to impose a one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) local sales and use tax by councilmanic action for affordable housing and related services; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2018, the Thurston County Board of Health adopted Resolution No. H-2-2018, declaring homelessness a public health crisis, resolving to "provide support and leadership in effective community-wide collaborative coordination, planning, and policy efforts to end this crisis and to implement actions that will reduce homelessness, increase affordable housing development opportunities, and address the health, safety, social, economic, and environmental impacts of homelessness . . . "; and

WHEREAS, the housing affordability problem and its impact by increasing homelessness in Thurston County has continued to grow worse since 2018, and requires prompt action to mitigate economic impacts, enhance public safety, and reduce human suffering for County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Housing Council (“RHC”) was created in January 2021 with the primary purpose to leverage resources and partnerships through policies and projects that promote equitable access to safe and affordable housing, and the RHC has developed a strategic framework to create an initial stock of 150-200 permanent supportive housing units, which requires additional funding to fully implement; and

WHEREAS, County Ordinance No. 16128 requires the County Manager to (a) develop an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Olympia outlining roles, responsibilities, administration, and other requirements related to combining Olympia’s and the County’s sales and use tax funds for housing and housing-related services; and (b) to work with participating jurisdictions to amend the Regional Housing Council Interlocal Agreement to create an administrative/executive arm to effectively guide the RHC on the use of the sales and use tax for housing and related services as permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, the County and Olympia agree that their objective is to create an efficient, effective, transparent, and inclusive system for funding, developing, managing, and implementing regional supportive and emergency housing projects in Thurston County and to jointly administer Olympia’s and the County’s Home Funds to accomplish this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the County and Olympia agree that all facilities funded using Home Fund revenues will support projects that are consistent with the objectives of the Thurston County Homeless Crisis Response Plan, and that this is best accomplished by working collaboratively to jointly manage the tax revenues from their respective Home Funds; and

WHEREAS, the County and Olympia further agree to continue to work towards an equitable sharing of the costs of supporting and managing existing emergency housing facilities and to work towards an equitable distribution of new facilities in the Thurston County region;

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

1. The Olympia City Council hereby approves the form of Interlocal Agreement between the City of Olympia and Thurston County to Combine the Olympia and Thurston County Home Funds as Allowed by State Law and the terms and conditions contained therein.
2. The City Manager is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the City of Olympia the Interlocal Agreement, and any other documents necessary to execute said Agreement, and to make any amendments or minor modifications as may be required and are consistent with the intent of the Agreement, or to correct any scrivener’s errors.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2022.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber

CITY ATTORNEY