

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,  
ACCEPTING THE ONE COMMUNITY: HEALTHY, SAFE AND HOUSED PLAN FOR  
RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS AND ITS IMPACTS IN OLYMPIA**

**WHEREAS**, both the City of Olympia and the Thurston County Board of Health have declared public health emergencies related to homelessness in the City of Olympia and in Thurston County; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Thurston County Point in Time Census identified 800 people experiencing homelessness countywide, including 394 people who identified as unsheltered, marking a 218% increase in unsheltered homelessness since 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the City of Olympia launched a year-long planning effort aimed at finding community agreement around how to best respond to the homelessness crisis and its impacts on the Olympia community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City used a participatory leadership model specifically designed for identifying community-based solutions to extremely difficult and complex challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the City engaged a wide and diverse cross-section of stakeholders, including people experiencing homelessness, faith community leaders, representatives of social and emergency services, hospitals, schools, neighborhood residents, business and property owners, downtown visitors and employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia heard from over 1,200 community members through two online surveys and 20 different community conversations where participants engaged in important civic dialogue face-to-face and across significant differences; and

**WHEREAS**, a Community Work Group comprised of 11 volunteers with different life experiences and perspectives guided the process and identified the strategic direction following the deep public engagement process; and

**WHEREAS**, the result of the process is the City's One Community: Healthy, Safe and Housed Plan (hereafter the One Community Plan), which includes short- and long-term strategies for responding to homelessness, potential implementation approaches intended to be carried out by the City as well as other partners, and measures of success; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Work Group met with the City Council on February 11, 2020, to share their experience with the process and their belief that the strategies and approaches represent what they heard during the process and the balanced voice of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, there are three focus areas in the One Community Plan, including streamlining and enhancing rapid response and wrap-around services, increasing affordable housing and prevention, and increasing public health and safety, which are meant to be acted upon simultaneously; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia intends to take significant steps to implement the One Community Plan, while also being clear that an effective response to homelessness will require strong and committed partnerships with all sectors of government and the regional community; and

**WHEREAS**, the One Community Plan is an extension of and supports implementation of the Thurston County Regional Crisis Response Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia will measure the success of its actions in order to learn and adapt those actions based on what works in preventing and alleviating homelessness and its hardships; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia will regularly report on the progress of the One Community Plan to the community through both data and stories about how our actions impact people and our community;

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

**Section 1.** The Olympia City Council hereby accepts the One Community: Healthy, Safe and Housed Plan.

**Section 2.** The Olympia City Council declares that the One Community: Healthy, Safe and Housed Plan is not binding on future Comprehensive Plan and development regulation amendments; but rather, it provides general guidance on the drafting of future proposals. The Olympia City Council will consider such future actions based on public participation and records created at such time in the future.

**PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**Mark Barber**  
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CITY ATTORNEY