



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Michael Cogle, Interim Director of Parks & Community Services
Eric Shields, Director of Planning & Building
Dawn Nelson, Planning Supervisor

Date: May 17, 2016

Subject: Affordable Housing Week Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor proclaim May 16 – May 22, 2016 as Affordable Housing Week in Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

Affordable Housing Week is a new annual region-wide initiative by the Housing Development Consortium to highlight the need for affordable housing in cities in King County. Through education and advocacy the Housing Development Consortium works collaboratively with public and private organizations to meet the housing needs of limited-income people throughout the region. The Consortium is comprised of over 120 member organizations.

Mayor Walen and Mayor Backus (Auburn) recently issued a "Mayor's Challenge" encouraging other cities in the region to participate in the Affordable Housing Week effort. Thus far, 18 cities in King County have pledged to participate.

A number of events are being scheduled during Affordable Housing Week to heighten awareness about the need for affordable housing. In Kirkland, an open house will be held at Francis Village on Wednesday, May 18, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Francis Village opened in 2012 and contains 61 affordable units, 45 of which are set aside for people coming from homelessness.

Kelly Rider, Government Relations and Policy Director for the Consortium, will attend the City Council meeting to receive the proclamation.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Affordable Housing Week

WHEREAS, all people should have access to safe, healthy, and affordable homes within communities of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that each \$100 increase in median rent results in a 15% increase in homelessness in metro areas and a 39% increase in homelessness in suburbs and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 One Night Count found 245 people in our community sleeping outdoors without shelter in January of this year, and 3,335 families are considered "housing insecure," because they are spending more than half of their income on rent & utilities; and

WHEREAS, there were 296 students identified as homeless during the 2014 – 2015 school year by the Lake Washington School District; and

WHEREAS, the combined cost burden of housing plus transportation can be substantially reduced by locating affordable housing opportunities in proximity to transit; and

WHEREAS, everyone benefits from affordable housing, including the people who reside in these properties, their neighbors, businesses, employers, and the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, united in an effort to raise public awareness, communities throughout King County are participating in local Affordable Housing Week efforts to inform the public of the critical need to preserve and/or increase affordable housing in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland has adopted a Housing Element as part of its Comprehensive Plan which includes goals and policies to address housing needs for households of all income levels and types of households including the homeless and persons with special needs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland has adopted legislation that supports affordable housing by exempting impact fees for affordable housing units, requiring affordable housing units in market rate developments, allowing multifamily tax exemptions where affordable housing units are provided and prohibiting discrimination against those using Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland is a member of A Regional Coalition for Housing, a nationally recognized organization, that supports the efforts of its members to create affordable housing in our city and communities throughout East King County; and

Whereas, the City of Kirkland endorses the goals, objectives, and purposes of Affordable Housing Week, and in doing so, recommits itself to ensuring that our community thrives with opportunity, and that all people in it live with dignity in safe, healthy, and affordable homes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Amy Walen, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim May 16 – 22, 2016 as Affordable Housing Week in Kirkland.

Signed this 17th day of May, 2016

Amy Walen, Mayor