



Housing Advisory Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR

February 23, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Housing Advisory Commission
 Submitted by: Xavier Johnson, Chairperson, Housing Advisory Commission
 Subject: 2021 Housing Advisory Commission Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

On March 17, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 69,331-N.S. which placed limitations of the meetings of City legislative bodies, including all boards and commissions. On October 22, the City Manager authorized commissions to meet to adopt a Work Plan. The Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) held a special meeting on November 12, 2020 to create a Work Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In July 2016, the City Council directed all commissions (with certain exceptions) to submit a work plan detailing its goals and objectives for the year. Plans will be submitted at the start of the fiscal year, annually. The plan for FY 20/21 was halted due to the suspensions of regular commission meetings due to COVID-19.

At our November 12, 2020 meeting the Housing Advisory Commission provided updates to its annual Work Plan. The strategies in this Work Plan are intended to advance our goal to create affordable housing and housing support services for our most vulnerable community members. The strategies presented below are based on the 2020 Work Plan with some adjustments.

The adopted Work Plan for FY20/21 is as follows:

- Continue the process of developing a Fall U1 Report that the Vice Chair and Chair will draft and bring to the full HAC for review
- Develop additional strategies using affordable housing funds to expand the supply of permanent affordable housing with funding proposals to provide to the City Council
- Develop a program/structure for supporting low income homeowners and landlords to navigate/find funding that will facilitate the implementation of actual construction/repairs needed for them to keep their properties safe, livable, affordable and up to code

- Review agency applications for City funding
- Allocate funding to Community Land Trusts and other democratized forms of housing
- Explore COVID-19's impacts on housing
- Address Council Referral: Research and Recommend Policies to Prevent Displacement and Gentrification of Berkeley Residents of Color and African Americans
- Address Council Referral: Small Sites Loan Program Recommendations
- Identify additional revenue sources for local housing
- Receive an update from the City on temporary and permanent housing opportunities for people currently unhoused in City of Berkeley

The HAC adopted this work plan with the Following vote: M/S/C (Simon-Weisberg/Sargent) to adopt a Work Plan for FY 20/21 that includes the recommendations from Commissioner Wolfe as well as the following additions:

- Explore COVID-19's impacts on housing
- Address Council Referral: Research and Recommend Policies to Prevent Displacement and Gentrification of Berkeley Residents of Color and African Americans
- Address Council Referral: Small Sites Loan Program Recommendations
- Identify additional revenue sources for local housing
- Receive an update from the City on temporary and permanent housing opportunities for people currently unhoused in City of Berkeley

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Lee-Egan, Mendonca, Sargent, Simon-Weisberg, Twu, and Wolfe. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Sharenko (unapproved).

Adopting a housing-focused Work Plan is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create affordable housing and housing support service for our most vulnerable community members.

BACKGROUND

This year's work plan reflects the Commission's engagement with housing affordability and ongoing responsibilities of the Commission. The Commission is contemplating non-traditional housing ownership, tenancy, and development models.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no direct environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

This Work Plan may result in future recommendations for policy, programs, and budget referrals to support local housing and anti-displacement initiatives.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

It is possible that adoption of new programs, revised programs, or need for staff time could result in some fiscal impacts to the City. Additional discretionary funds may be necessary to fund activities in response to Council referrals including outreach, videography, and meeting space.

CONTACT PERSON

Mike Uberti, Commission Secretary, HHCS (510) 981-5114

