



Housing Advisory Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR
September 24, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Housing Advisory Commission
Submitted by: Xavier Johnson, Chairperson, Housing Advisory Commission
Subject: 2019 Housing Advisory Commission Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

The HAC discussed the updated Work Plan at its July meeting this year. The following vote was taken at the July 11, 2019 meeting:

Action: M/S/C (Tregub/Sharenko) adopt a work plan that includes the items submitted by Commissioners Lord, Mendonca, and Wolfe and additions by Lewis.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Lewis, Lord, Sargent, Sharenko, Tregub, and Wright. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mendonca (excused), Owens (unexcused), Simon-Weisberg (excused), and Wolfe (excused).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The strategies in this Work Plan are a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create affordable housing and housing support service for our most vulnerable community members. The Housing Advisory Commission received Work Plan suggestions from four commissioners. All of these were approved at the July 11, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Thomas Lord:

- Smoke-free housing ordinance recommendations
- Social housing
- Housing summit (related to social housing)
- Consideration of housing and the climate emergency
- Council's referral regarding gentrification and racial equity issues
- HAC's code enforcement oversight role
- "for the good of order" - meta-concerns about our Commission processes

Commissioner Marian Wolfe:

- Program Activity - Fall U1 Report that the Vice Chair and Chair will draft and bring to the full HAC for review.

Resources needed: Staff time to provide information on actual U1 General Fund expenditures and commitments of funds for 2019.

Intended Results, include the following:

Output – Report on expenditures and commitments of U1 General Funds and provision of recommendations of how the City can should establish and fund programs to increase the supply of affordable housing and protect Berkeley residents from homelessness.

Outcome – Second 2019 Bi-Annual Report for the November meeting

- Program Activity – Develop additional strategies using local funds to expand the supply of permanent affordable housing with funding proposals to provide to the City Council.

Resources needed – Based on volunteer work and fact-finding, most of the work will not require additional resources. The only exception could be staff assistance in estimating potential costs for each strategy (based on realistic goals).

Intended Results - Suggested new programs (including scale of the programs) for the City Council to consider using local affordable housing funds (e.g., use of local funds for BUSD housing development).

- Program Activity – Review 2018 Work Plan to see if there are useful activities to add to the 2019 Work Plan

Resources needed – HAC members to bring in their recommendations. The only assistance needed from staff could be in estimating potential costs for each strategy (based on realistic goals).

- Intended Results - Additional work plan items to add to the 2019 Work Plan in this new format adopted for the 2019 Work Plan.

Commissioner Mari Mendonca:

- Program Activity - 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.

Resources needed - Meet with staff and the Inspections office to see how they deal with this process currently. Consider procedural changes to accomplish improvements in processes for low income homeowners.

Intended results - Development of a program in which low income homeowners receive support in navigating and obtaining financial, repair/construction resources as opposed to being threatened by the consequences of enforcement tactics.

- Program Activity - Reviewing agency applications for City funding

Resources needed - Staff assistance to guarantee that members of the commission carefully review applications and conduct site visits to the agencies whose applications are being considered. Applicants must be invited to address the HAC concerning their needs/requests and their accomplishments.

Intended results - To guarantee that funding decisions are based on community needs and the actual performance of agencies being reviewed.

Commissioner Matthew Lewis:

- Register all rental units in the city.
- Allocate funding to Community Land Trusts and other democratized forms of housing.

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 associated with the content of this report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The HAC will continue to work on this Work Plan in order to refine potential outputs, outcomes, activities, and required resources.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Adoption of the Work Plan in itself does not create fiscal impacts. However, 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 space.

CONTACT PERSON

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