

TO: City Council
FROM: Brad Medrud, Planning Manager
DATE: February 7, 2023
SUBJECT: Ordinance No. O2022-014 – Rental Housing Registration

1) Recommended Action:

Approve Ordinance No. O2022-014.

2) Background:

After the City Council adopted Resolution No. R2018-016 in the summer of 2018, the City has undertaken a number of actions to address homelessness, increase affordable housing, and continue to work with other jurisdictions and agencies to explore regional solutions to these issues. As part of that process, the City reviewed tenant protections to look for ways to make it easier for people in the City who rent to access housing and stay housed.

In September 2021, the City Council adopted the *Tumwater Housing Action Plan*, which informs the City's Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations and guide implementation strategies to help the City meet its housing needs.

At its March 22, 2022 worksession, the City Council discussed potential actions that the City could undertake alone or on a regional basis to address tenant protection. At the conclusion of that discussion, the City Council asked staff to prepare the three following priority items for further consideration:

- 1) An ordinance to establish a rental registration program in Title 5 *Business Taxes, Licenses and Regulations* to communicate with tenants and landlords about rental regulations and to consider using the program in the future for regular inspections of rental units;
- 2) A scope for a contract with the Dispute Resolution Center for tenant and landlord conflict resolution services. The General Government Committee was briefed on the scope of the contract on January 11, 2023 and the contract will be approved administratively in early 2023; and
- 3) Two ordinances to address tenant protections in Title 5 *Business Taxes, Licenses and Regulations*, which are Ordinance Nos. O2022-010 *Unfair Housing Practices* and O2022-012 *Rental Housing Code*. The City Council approved these two ordinances on December 6, 2022.

Ordinance No. O2022-014 *Rental Housing Registration* establishes a rental housing registration program to license rental properties with five or more units in order to communicate with tenants and landlords about rental regulations in Title 5 *Business Taxes, Licenses and Regulations*.

The General Government Committee was briefed on the ordinance on January 11, 2023 and the City held a worksession on the ordinance on February 24, 2023.

3) Policy Support:

Housing Element Goal H-3: To provide adequate, affordable housing for residents of all income groups, including sufficient housing affordable to low and moderate-income groups.

4) Alternatives:

- ☐ Take off consent, modify and approve Ordinance No. O2022-014
 - ☐ Take off consent and reject Ordinance No. O2022-014
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5) Fiscal Notes:

This is an internally funded work program task.

6) Attachments:

- A. Staff Report
- B. Ordinance No. O2022-014