

TO: General Government Committee
FROM: Brad Medrud, Planning Manager
DATE: January 11, 2023
SUBJECT: Dispute Resolution Center – Tumwater Tenant – Landlord Dispute Resolution Services

1) Recommended Action:

Conduct a briefing on the proposed scope of services.

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 has been reviewing 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 will inform 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) A scope for a contract with the Dispute Resolution Center for tenant and landlord conflict resolution services;
- 2) 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. The General Government Committee will receive a briefing on the ordinance on January 11, 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*. Both ordinances were approved by the City Council on December 6, 2022.

The scope of services for the Dispute Resolution Center is discussed in the attached staff report.

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:

None.

5) Fiscal Notes:

This is an internally funded work program task.

6) Attachments:

A. Staff Report