



REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT TWO

STAFF REPORT

Summary

The intent of Regional Housing Council – Interlocal Agreement Amendment Two is to create an administrative/executive arm to effectively guide the Regional Housing Council on its recommendations for the use of the Sales and Use tax for Housing and Related services adopted by Thurston County and the City of Olympia.

Proposal

1. Approve the Regional Housing Council – Interlocal Agreement Amendment Two for signature by the Mayor.

Background

The City Council has devoted considerable time to discussions addressing homelessness and the lack of affordable housing in Tumwater since 2018.

The primary purpose of the Regional Housing Council is to leverage resources and partnerships through policies and projects that promote equitable access to safe and affordable housing. The Regional Housing Council considers issues specifically related to funding a regional response to homelessness and affordable housing and coordinating existing funding programs. These programs may include, RCW 36.22.179 (ESSHB 2163) and RCW 36.22.178 (SHB 2060) funds, HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG), Housing and Essential Needs (HEN), RCW 82.14.540 (SHB 1406), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other related funding sources such as a regional home fund to help implement the five-year Homeless Crisis Response Plan and increase affordable housing options.

To achieve this purpose, the Regional Housing Council assists in monitoring the implementation of the County's five-year Homeless Crisis Response Plan by setting priorities and making funding decisions on projects and programs that implement the Homeless Crisis Response Plan. Additionally, the Regional Housing Council provides a forum for consideration of policy options related to homelessness and encourages development of regional approaches to planning for, responding to, and funding homeless services and facilities and expanding affordable housing options.

The term of the Interlocal Agreement is five years. The Interlocal Agreement establishes procedures for governance, scope of work, funding, and other related

items for the Regional Housing Council. The Jurisdictions comprising five percent or more of the County population allocate a minimum annual amount equal to not less than one half of one percent of the last full year of general sales and use taxes pursuant to RCW 82.14.030(1) for projects, programs, and activities providing direct support to the Jurisdictions' most vulnerable residents. In addition, the City of Tumwater makes an in-kind contribution of up to 0.25 FTE staff to support the work of the Regional Housing Council.

Amendment One to the Interlocal Agreement was adopted on April 30, 2021. The amendment added clarification and requirements to how the signatories of the Interlocal Agreement would manage and make decisions concerning RCW 82.14.540 ("SHB 1406") funds.

In the 2021 Regular Session, the Washington State Legislature approved, and the Governor signed, House Bill 1070 (Chapter 222, Laws of 2020), modifying allowed uses of local tax revenue for affordable housing and related services to include the acquisition and construction of affordable housing and facilities; amending RCW 82.14.530 and 67.28.180; and declaring an emergency.

The City of Olympia Council passed Ordinance No. 7127 on March 6, 2018, as authorized under RCW 82.14.530 to be used for the Olympia Home Fund to construct affordable and supportive housing and housing-related services, including mental and behavioral health-related facilities, and providing for other matters relating thereto and properly permitted by state law.

The Thurston County Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance No. 16128, on January 26, 2022, as authorized under RCW 82.14.530 to be used for the Thurston County Home Fund to construct affordable and supportive housing and housing-related services, and providing for other matters relating thereto and properly permitted by state law.

Amendment Two is needed to create an administrative/executive arm to effectively guide the Regional Housing Council on its recommendations for the use of the Sales and Use tax for Housing and Related services adopted by Thurston County and the City of Olympia.

The General Government Committee was briefed on the proposed amendment at their February 8, 2023 meeting and recommended that it go to City Council consent.

Public Approval Process

The City Council will need to approve Regional Housing Council – Interlocal Agreement Amendment Two for signature by the Mayor.

Applicable Revised Strategic Priorities and Goals (December 6, 2022)

- A. Build a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion and Humanity*
- 1. Support and advance intergenerational housing opportunities*
 - 2. Implement the Tumwater Housing Action Plan*
 - 4. Support housing stability policies/programs*

General Government Committee Recommendation

1. The General Government Committee recommended that the City Council approve the Regional Housing Council – Interlocal Agreement Amendment Two for signature by the Mayor.

Effects of the Proposed Action

The Regional Housing Council – Interlocal Agreement Amendment Two will amend the original Regional Housing Council Interlocal Agreement approved by the City Council in January 2021 and amended in April 2021 as noted above.

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