

# LITTLEROCK REZONE

## WRITTEN NARRATIVE

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The rezone application applies to three parcels currently zoned SFM. They are adjacent to 7223 Littlerock Rd SW, which is currently a single-family house and zoned MFM. The MFM site and the three SFM parcels are all owned by the same entity and are being sold in one transaction. These four lots will be redeveloped into a multi-family residential project by Fourth Street Housing, LLC (FSH).

The comprehensive plan designation for the SFM lots is Single-Family Medium Density Residential, which has a minimum density of 6 units per acre and a maximum of 9 residential units per acre. The conversion to Multi-Family Medium Density would change the density to a minimum 9 residential units/acre to 15 units/acre, which would include a transfer of development rights. Additional units could be developed per acre if an affordable residential element is included.

The three SFM lots are a combined 2.76 acres and would yield a density of 25 units under the current zone. If the parcels were rezoned to MFM, the density potential would increase to between 39 units and 55 units depending on transfer of development rights and the number of affordable units provided.

The purpose of this rezone application is to extend the MFM zoning one parcel to the south, which would allow additional density in an area that could support it. In addition, the parcels under consideration have a great many existing mature trees, which would make the transition to the SFM zone to the south better than the current SFM/MFM boundary.

There is an historic lack of residential units in Thurston Co and all of western Washington due to a number of conditions; Lack of residential construction during the recession, high number of people moving into the county, delayed response by developers, and lack of developable sites not encumbered by critical areas, such as steep slopes, wetlands and gophers. This combination has caused a spike in rents, which has placed a tremendous burden on people trying to find safe, affordable housing.

FSH was formed as a company to develop Merritt Manor, an 82-unit affordable housing project on Martin Way in Olympia. It is one of the few wholly private-sector affordable housing projects in the state. Rents at MM are well below 60% of the Thurston Co Median Income level.

Creating additional density on these three parcels makes sense on a number of levels: The parcels are located on an arterial road that can support this density. They are across the Street from Tumwater Blvd, which accesses both north and south bound movements to I-5. The new I-5 bridge project at Tumwater Blvd provides a great deal of additional capacity and anticipates increased growth in this area. The zone across Littlerock Rd SW is MU, which has a much higher density and is more compatible with a MFM zone than the existing SFM zone. Providing additional density in this area is much more desirable than many other areas in the city and county. MFM is a medium density project and as such will have the advantage of maintaining a tremendous amount of open space and existing trees on site, resulting in a higher quality project.