



Memorandum

DATE: November 12, 2024

TO: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

FROM: Sarah Pearlman, Assistant Planner
Dan Pauly, Planning Manager

RE: **Annual Community Conversation on Housing Cost Burden Event**

Oregon State Law requires that communities hold a public meeting each year when more than 25% of households experience “severe rent burden,” meaning households that spend more than 50% for their income on rent and utilities. In 2023, 29% of Wilsonville renters were severely rent burdened. Being severely rent burdened means that a household has less money to spend on other necessary expenses, including food and medical care, and has less money to save for larger necessary expenses.

The City will be holding a Community Conversation on Housing Cost Burden event with light snacks and warm drinks on December 11, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. to discuss challenges that community members are facing in finding and accessing affordable rental housing. The event will be held at City Hall with an option to participate virtually via Zoom. Staff are especially interested in hearing from community members who have lived experience with rental housing cost burden. An in-person, Spanish language interpreter will be present during the event. Additionally, service providers from Wilsonville Community Sharing, Heart of the City, and Clackamas County will be in attendance to share information on financial resources and other assistance available to the community.

Staff seek any feedback that the DEI Committee has on outreach and advertising for this event. The current strategy for outreach includes sending a postcard and formal notice in both English and Spanish to all apartment units in the City, a short write-up in the December issue of the Boones Ferry messenger, and social media posts in the weeks leading up to the event.

Discussion Questions

- Does the DEI Committee have ideas on other individuals or entities to connect with for this event that the City has not included yet?
- Does the DEI Committee have ideas on other ways to connect with residents who may be experiencing rent burden?