



Legislation Text

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Discuss Affordable Housing Goals for Rental Housing Development.

Staff:

Loryn Clark, Executive Director
Sarah Osmer Viñas, Assistant Director
Nate Broman-Fulks, Affordable Housing Manager
Emily Holt, Affordable Housing Development Officer

Department:

Housing and Community

Overview: The Town Council has expressed interest in developing an equitable and predictable formula and procedure for determining payments-in-lieu for rental housing development. This item:

1. Provides an overview of the Town's historical approach to negotiating affordable housing contributions for rental housing; and,
2. Reviews benchmarking research and findings; and,
3. Proposes a framework of guiding principles and goals for affordable housing in new rental housing development going forward. The establishment of these goals could then be used as a guide to inform the development of payment-in-lieu formula options for Council consideration.

We anticipate returning to the Council in the fall of 2019 with formula options.



Recommendation(s):

That the Council review and provide direction on the intended affordable housing goals for new rental housing development.

Background:

- The [Affordable Housing Policy <http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=24578>](http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=24578) adopted by the Council originally in 2000 and amended in 2009 states:

"It is the expectation of the Council that applicants seeking approval of rezoning applications containing a residential component will incorporate a "15% affordable" feature into their plans, and that mechanisms will be proposed to assure ongoing affordability of these so-designated dwelling units. At its discretion, the Council may accept a payment-in-lieu of all or part of the affordable housing obligation. The payment amount shall be established by Resolution."

This policy is applicable in cases where a rezoning is requested to increase residential density above what is allowed under the existing zoning for the property.

- To date, the Council has negotiated affordable housing in rental housing development in a variety of ways and for a variety of payment-in-lieu amounts. The Council has expressed an interest in establishing a consistent, predictable formula to serve as a guide for future negotiations.
- In February of 2018, the Town Council evaluated several payment-in-lieu formulas, including one recommended by the Housing Advisory Board. At that meeting, the Town Council expressed a desire to establish goals for the payment-in-lieu formula before approving a formula.
- Since the last Council discussion, staff researched the goals/guiding principles established by other

municipalities and solicited input from market-rate and affordable housing developers, and the Affordable Housing Coalition.







- The Housing Advisory Board (HAB) reviewed the research findings and input, and discussed potential goals over several meetings. This process resulted in the HAB's recommended *Guiding Principles for Considering Affordable Housing in New Rental Housing Development (attached)*.
- Alternatives to providing affordable housing units onsite are intended to be agreed to by a property owner/applicant and the Town when an application is submitted for rezoning. The alternatives to on-site affordable units are offered by a property owner/applicant in conjunction with the rezoning and any other needed development approval.

Next Steps:

- Based on feedback from the Council, we will continue to evaluate options for establishing a payment-in-lieu formula.
- We would return to the Council in the fall with options and a recommendation for consideration.

Fiscal Impact/Resources: Payments-in-lieu and affordable housing contributions generate funding for the Town's Affordable Housing Fund.

Council Goals:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  | Create a Place for Everyone | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Develop Good Places, New Spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Support Community Prosperity | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Nurture Our Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Facilitate Getting Around | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Grow Town and Gown Collaboration |



Attachments:

- Draft Staff Presentation
- Housing Advisory Board Recommendation
- Research Overview

The Agenda will reflect the text below and/or the motion text will be used during the meeting.

PRESENTER: Sarah Osmer Viñas, Assistant Director, Office for Housing and Community
Nate Broman-Fulks, Affordable Housing Manager

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council review and discuss the intended affordable housing goals in new rental housing development.