

RESOLUTION 2002R-008

By Schiff, Ostrow

Directing the Minneapolis Planning Department to undertake a comprehensive review of the City's residential zoning patterns in relation to the City of Minneapolis' Affordable Housing Initiative.

Whereas, it is the goal of the City of Minneapolis that all of its citizens live in safe, decent, affordable housing; and

Whereas, the shortage of affordable rental and ownership housing in Minneapolis is severe and has significantly worsened in recent years; and

Whereas, a shortage of affordable housing creates severe hardship for low-income families and their children, and for vulnerable single adults and seniors. It is an important contributing factor to homelessness. It makes it more difficult for employers to attract and retain productive workers. It forces many families to move frequently and thus contributes to children's inability to perform well in school; and

Whereas, The Minneapolis Plan calls for an increase in the supply of housing for all incomes, providing greater variety, mix and appropriate density housing choices. Housing choice is especially important to low-income families who are the most constrained in their ability to choose housing; and

Whereas, the revitalization of neighborhood commercial nodes, community and commercial corridors has emerged as a City priority, and the Minneapolis Plan recognizes that the quality and health of our urban commercial areas is dependent on the support and development of a variety of uses with density appropriate to preserve and create additional opportunities for housing development in close proximity to commercial areas; and

Whereas, while the affordable housing deficit is recognized to be a metro-wide issue, and can only be adequately addressed by actions in multiple municipalities and at the regional and state level, the City of Minneapolis can play a leadership role in addressing the regional need through the demonstration of a high local commitment to the resolution of the issue.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the Planning Department is directed to:

1. Undertake a comprehensive review of the City's residential zoning patterns.
2. Identify underlying policy considerations relevant to potential changes to zoning of residential property.

3. Solicit and utilize input from relevant constituencies and the general public in the identification of areas of potential change.
4. By March 31, 2002, prepare a report to the City Council identifying a menu of potential changes to the zoning of residential property that merit consideration because of their effect on the development of affordable housing. Areas of attention should include the City's community and commercial corridors and transit routes, zoning density and nonconforming properties, and areas around the City's activity centers.
5. By March 31, 2002, prepare a proposed work program and timeline for implementation of changes to the zoning of residential property. The work program should allow adequate time for City Council policy deliberation and appropriate public feedback on proposed changes.

Adopted. Yeas, 13; Nays none.

Passed January 18, 2002.

Approved January 23, 2002. R.T. Rybak, Mayor.

Attest: M. Keefe, City Clerk.