



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the City Manager

409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 432-7701 / FAX (540) 432-7778

Eric D. Campbell
City Manager

TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager
FROM: Michael Wong, Executive Director Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority
DATE: 1/18/18
RE: Homeownership Initiative in the City of Harrisonburg

Summary: Update on the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (HRHA) strategic plan to expand homeownership within the City and proposal to the Council to further partner with HRHA on the possible development of a blight removal program and an employee assisted homeownership program for city staff. Homeownership stabilizes and revitalizes neighborhoods, encourages community investment and increases civic engagement within our City.

Background: 2016 Census estimation puts the rate of owner-occupied housing units within the City at 36.1%. Increasing homeownership is consistent with the City's and Authority's Assessment of Fair Housing goals, the City's consolidated and comprehensive plan and the Authority's annual and 5 year plan. HRHA has had success in previously managed homeownership programs using local community and grant funds. HRHA plans to restart these programs and possibly expanding these initiatives in partnership with the City.

Key Issues: Continued decline of homeownership within the City, development and implementation of a blight removal program and employee assisted homeownership program.

Council consider proposal and if approved, authorized City staff to work with HRHA to develop blight removal and employee assisted homeownership program for final Council approval. HRHA will take the lead agency role in the development of the respective programs and grant applications for use in the respective programs.

Environmental Impact: n/a

Fiscal Impact: n/a

Prior Actions: n/a

Alternatives: (a)
(b); or
(c)

Community Engagement: n/a

Recommendation:



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Attachments:

RE:

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Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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