



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

ERIC D. CAMPBELL, CITY MANAGER
409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

To: Mayor Reed and Members of City Council

From: Eric D. Campbell, City Manager *Eric D. Campbell*

Date: February 16, 2021

Subject: Resolution Supporting Creation of an Affordable Housing Fund

The City Council 2039 Vision Statement strives for Harrisonburg to become a City with a wealth of affordable, diverse housing options available and logistically integrated throughout its neighborhoods. In response to the 2039 Vision, in 2020 the City conducted its first-ever Comprehensive Housing Assessment & Market Study. The study, which concluded in January 2021, provided a data-driven understanding of the local housing market and provided best practice recommendations on how to address the housing problems identified. City staff developed for City Council's consideration a resolution based on the Comprehensive Housing Assessment & Market Study's findings and recommended policy actions.

The resolution reaffirms City Council's prioritization of affordable housing; directs the City Manager and City Attorney to research and report back to City Council on the steps necessary to establish a Housing Fund by ordinance in accordance with the Code of Virginia, which may fund the production or preservation of affordable housing through, among other things, acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation or housing supportive services; and directs the City Manager to develop an implementation strategy for the Comprehensive Housing Assessment & Market Study, and to report back to City Council to present the strategy.

The Comprehensive Housing Assessment & Market Study recommendations are structured to establish a foundation to address affordable housing now and in the future. 17 recommendations fall primarily under the authority of City Council. Many of the recommendations included in the study are being implemented in other Virginia municipalities, and several are best practices in places throughout the U.S.