



HOUSING SC MINUTES

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 4, 2025
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall / Zoom(Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Yem, C. Chau and C. Gitschier. Also present were C. Belanger; Camilo Espitia (DPD); Chris Hayes (NNCOG); C. Belanger; C. Nuon; Fran Cigliano (DPD) and C. Mercier.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Yem noted attendance and discussion of the Housing Production Plan (HPP).

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Ms. Cigliano commented on the HPP production and working with NNCOG to provide needed data regarding housing. Mr. Hayes provided presentation beginning with outlining purpose of NNCOG and its partnership with many different housing entities. Mr. Hayes noted the report was prepared through the Lowell Forward initiative outlining the public participation and that it was community driven. Mr. Hayes outlined the key findings in the report which was designed to opening opportunities for having residents remain in the City through all stages of life. The following goals were described along with indicators to growth being identified. The goals were: growth; different housing types; quality; eliminate homelessness; provide options for low income; provide new opportunities and fair housing. Mr. Hayes noted the next steps for the program



which would include approval from Planning Board and City Council and implementation of plan with partners. C. Yem noted the full report was available to public. C. Chau noted the increase in units and opportunity to own over renting. Mr. Espitia noted the need for diverse housing to keep residents in the City their entire life. C. Chau questioned if there was a city-wide approach in this matter. Ms. Cigliano indicated that there are certain areas better suited for development. Mr. Espitia noted a lot is governed by zoning in the City. C. Gitschier noted the reality of affordable housing and the burden on taxpayers. C. Gitschier noted that zoning must be properly developed to meet the needs of the area, and that affordable housing can not be subsidized housing which it is when taxpayers foot the bill. Mr. Espitia noted the programs are developed to keep people in City and promote growth. C. Gitschier highlighted the issue with parking in the new MBTA zoning district. C. Yem noted importance of opportunity for ownership. **Motion** by C. Chau, seconded by C. Gitschier to provide full report to the Council. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn and continue by C. Chau, seconded by C. Yem. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Michael Geary, City Clerk