

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
HOUSING AUTHORITY

TO: HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: DAVID GOUIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF IDEAS ORIGINATING FROM
HOUSING AUTHORITY RETREAT

AGENDA ACTION: STUDY SESSION- POSSIBLE MOTION(S)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Housing Authority, continue its discussion and decide on possible actions regarding: 1) an interest to have structured advocacy for affordable housing resources at the Federal, State, and Local levels of government and potentially form the private sector; 2) explore the Housing Authority's role in expanding housing production, lowering housing construction costs, and strategies in housing design and construction; and, 3) explore ways to develop and promote the value of the Authority.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Housing Authority's retreat on January 22, 2018, more than one commissioner expressed an interest to possibly advocate for and/or assign a formal representative to group(s) involved in discussing affordable housing funding options, the possible role of the Authority to expand production and direct ways to lower housing construction costs, and discuss methods that may raise the profile of the Authority, not just locally but perhaps include ideas to have the Federal government more involved in funding affordable housing.

This study session will determine if the legislative body desires to further these discussions, develop possible motion(s), and provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND

1. The Housing Authority has an involvement in affordable housing funding, and when new funding options are considered, typically will do so based on City Council direction, or ideally, be in direct discussions with the City Council as ideas are explored. The full City Council has not formally discussed any new

funding options or taken any action, and the Housing Authority has not been involved in recent community conversations about the need and ideas for possible new affordable housing funding.

This discussion may result in new methods to include the Commission in funding advocacy at all levels of government and possibly the private sector.

2. The structure of City governance currently relies on building code, Design Review Board and Planning Commission actions that may influence housing construction requirements and related costs. However, total development costs have been escalating in both market and below market rate housing, and the Housing Authority may want to explore a role in expanding strategies with other groups on housing production and cost savings.
3. Finally, several Commissioners expressed an interest to increase elected representatives and the community's awareness of the value the Commission adds to affordable housing policy matters.

CONTACT

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