



MONROE PLANNING COMMISSION Agenda Item Cover Sheet

TITLE:	<i>Affordable Housing Discussion</i>
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DATE:	FILE NUMBER:	CONTACT(S):	PRESENTER:	ITEM:
07/22/2019	N/A	Anita Marrero	Anita Marrero	NB#1

Discussion: 07/22/2019

- Attachments:**
1. Affordable Housing PowerPoint Presentation
 2. Housing Affordability Terms

REQUESTED ACTION: None. Discussion only.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The City of Monroe is in the process of updating its Affordable Housing code. To accomplish this, staff is forming an Affordable Housing Committee that will consist of community members, planning commissioners, and affordable housing proponents. The goal of the Affordable Housing Committee will be to draft a code that will address the affordable housing crisis and implement regulations that will allow and encourage more affordable forms of housing.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

The state of Washington is in the middle of an affordable housing crisis. Per the Department of Commerce, "It is the goal of the state of Washington to coordinate, encourage, and direct, when necessary, the efforts of the public and private sectors of the state and to cooperate and participate, when necessary, in the attainment of a decent home in a healthy, safe environment for every resident of the state. The legislature declares that attainment of that goal is a state priority."

The Growth Management Act (GMA) Housing Goal, RCW 36.70A.020(4), encourages the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promotes a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourages preservation of existing housing stock. The housing element of the City of Monroe Comprehensive Plan lists the following policies that support affordable housing and a diverse range of housing options:

P.076, P.099, P.115: Promote redevelopment and infill along the west Main Street corridor, including higher-density residential and mixed-use development.
P.093, P.110: Support maintenance and revitalization of older housing to beautify and help stabilize existing neighborhoods.
P.112: Coordinate with non-profit agencies and other groups providing low to moderate-income housing.
P.113: Promote the development of affordable housing.
P.117: Allow the development of Work/Live units within Mixed Use areas and Downtown.
P.118: Permit a variety of smaller-sized housing, including cottage housing, manufactured home parks, or other types where compatible with surrounding neighborhoods.
P.119: Encourage the development of housing for special needs populations that may include the following: integration of universal design standards to assist elderly and other special needs populations to stay in their homes; coordination of housing and service providers in serving special needs populations; and promoting the development of ongoing operations of supportive housing with appropriate services for people with special needs throughout the county and region.

The current affordable housing code was adopted ten years ago in 2009. The code chapter was revised with the UDR update but not substantially. As the economic state of the region as changed since 2009, it is important to update the code to reflect the current climate and needs of the residents of Monroe.

FISCAL IMPACTS

N/A

TIME CONSTRAINTS

N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO REQUESTED ACTION

N/A