



City of Edmonds Media Release

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ~ 121 5TH Ave N, Edmonds WA 98020

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To: Media

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PUBLIC INVITED TO HOUSING WORKSHOP

A public workshop/open house on housing strategies will be held August 27, 7:00 pm, in the Edmonds City Hall Brackett Room (3rd floor) at 121 Fifth Avenue N.

The City is aiming to develop a housing strategy by 2019 to increase the supply of affordable housing for all income levels and to meet diverse housing needs.

“People in Edmonds deserve good housing choices,” said Mayor Dave Earling. “Some residents are struggling with how to stay in Edmonds or have their kids live in Edmonds. As our region grows, more people want to live here and without some new options, housing prices will keep going up. I hope people chime in on how the city can help responsibly steer the direction.”

The City began working last summer to develop a housing strategy that names a variety of things the City can do to encourage more housing affordability and consider different needs.

“The intent,” said Shane Hope, the city’s development services director, “is to see what the City can do to help a greater amount of housing be available for young people just starting out and retired people wanting to downsize, along with having more options for moderate and middle-income families and some lower-income families.”

She noted that meeting diverse housing needs includes addressing needs of seniors, veterans, and different sizes of families.

Some ideas in the current draft strategy include making the permit process go faster, allowing a limited amount of additional areas to have townhomes or duplexes, and requiring new multifamily projects to provide a range of housing types and prices.

The draft strategy, along with other information about the project, is online at:

<https://www.edmondshousingstrategy.org>. Changes to the draft are expected before finalizing this fall.

The August 27 workshop will offer information and invite input on what makes sense for the City to do to encourage housing affordability.

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