



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

## Proclaiming October 12 - 16, 2020 as “Affordable Housing Week” in Kirkland, Washington

**WHEREAS**, all people should have access to safe, healthy, and affordable homes within communities of opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Count Us In survey on January 24<sup>th</sup> found over 11,751 individuals experiencing homelessness in King County, 5,578 of them living without shelter, and that homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color in King County; and

**WHEREAS**, the combined cost burden of housing plus transportation can be substantially reduced by locating affordable housing opportunities in proximity to transit; and

**WHEREAS**, everyone benefits from affordable housing, including the people who reside in these properties, their neighbors, businesses, employers, and the community as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that affordable, healthy homes are positively linked to physical and psychological well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, united in an effort to raise public awareness, communities throughout King County are participating in local Affordable Housing Week efforts to inform the public of the critical need to preserve and increase affordable housing in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland has adopted a Housing Element as part of its Comprehensive Plan which includes goals and policies to address housing needs for all income levels and types of households including the homeless and people with special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland has adopted legislation that supports affordable housing by exempting impact fees for affordable housing units, requiring affordable housing units in market rate developments, allowing multifamily tax exemptions where affordable housing units are provided, and prohibiting discrimination against Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers use; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland has an adopted Housing Strategy Plan and Work Program to further initiatives to provide housing choice and affordable housing throughout the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland is a member of A Regional Coalition for Housing, a nationally recognized organization, that supports member efforts to create affordable housing throughout East King County, and Kirkland has invested millions of dollars through the ARCH Housing Trust fund over the past two decades to preserve existing and build new affordable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland endorses the goals, objectives, and purposes of Affordable Housing Week, and in doing so, recommits itself to ensuring that our community thrives with opportunity, and that all people in it live with dignity in safe, healthy, and affordable homes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim October 12 – 16, 2020 as Affordable Housing Week in Kirkland.



Signed this 6th day of October, 2020

Penny Sweet, Mayor