



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming May 9 - 15, 2021 as “Affordable Housing Week” in Kirkland, Washington

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

WHEREAS, housing stability and staying physically distant from those outside of one’s household has become the state’s core public health strategy during the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee has recognized the correlation between housing access and vulnerability and has extended a residential eviction moratorium through June 30, 2021, to prevent families and individuals from losing their housing; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes safe, healthy, and affordable housing within communities as key social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, the King County community has responded to the historic challenges presented by the pandemic, by delivering direct supports to families and individuals in precarious housing situation but the need for affordable homes across King County prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the number of people experiencing homelessness had remained at crisis levels; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland, recognizing the multiple public health benefits of community members remaining housed, has provided extra funding during the COVID-19 Pandemic to services supporting housing stability including rental, mortgage and utility assistance, food and other basic needs support, and day camps for children; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland has a long history of commitment to the preservation and creation of affordable housing resulting in significant numbers of affordable units throughout the City, including as a founding and current member of A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) and through legislative and zoning actions and investing of millions of dollars in housing into the ARCH Housing Trust Fund; and

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

WHEREAS, united to raise public awareness, people, organizations, and communities throughout King County are participating in local Affordable Housing Week activities to elevate the critical need to create healthy communities with ample affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2021, the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County awarded Kirkland the 2020 Municipal Champion Award, which recognizes the bold actions Kirkland has taken to increase Missing Middle Housing types across the city in order to promote greater housing affordability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland endorses the goals, objectives, and purposes of Affordable Housing Week, and in doing so, firmly recommits itself to ensuring that our community’s recovery from the crises at hand is equitable, and that all people in Kirkland live with dignity in safe, healthy, and affordable homes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim May 9 – 15, 2021 as Affordable Housing Week in Kirkland.

Signed this 4th day of May 2021

Penny Sweet, Mayor