



Office of Mayor

PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines affordable housing as “housing on which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utilities.”; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce projects that by 2044, King County needs nearly 200,000 net new housing units for households at or below 80% area median income; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that each \$100 increase in median rent results in a 15% increase in homelessness in metro areas and a 39% increase in homelessness in nearby suburbs and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington conducted a survey and housing costs, homelessness, and overall cost of living are the most important problems facing Washington. Additionally, 76% of respondents said they were directly impacted or knew someone directly impacted by the cost and availability of housing; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recognizes safe, healthy, and affordable housing within communities of opportunity as key social determinants of health; 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, 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, ensuring access to housing is one of the fundamental functions of effective planning. In North Bend, 26% of all households spend more than 30% of their income on housing-related costs. This issue is especially pronounced among North Bend renter households, who are more likely than homeowners to spend more than 50% of their income on housing-related costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Bend prepared an Economic Development Action Plan which shows that housing is a critical issue in Economic Development and that attainable housing is needed for business to thrive. Attainable housing is market rate housing in which the people are spending no more than 30% of their income on their home. Implicit in this idea of attainability is the idea that a range of housing options (type, size, tenure, cost) needs to exist in the local market for a range of household incomes and preferences; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Bend 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 North Bend live with dignity in safe, healthy, and affordable homes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rob McFarland, Mayor, do hereby proclaim the week of May 7 to 13, 2023, as **AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK** in the City of North Bend.



Signed this 2nd day of May, 2023

Rob McFarland
Mayor