RESOLUTION 214 OF 2022

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE ULSTER COUNTY HOUSING SMART COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Sponsored By:

Laws & Rules Committee: Alderman Worthington, Scott-Childress, Frankel, Olivieri, Hill

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston believes that rising housing and rental costs and a lack of diverse housing opportunities for all community members pose a significant challenge to the members of our community; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing is defined as housing in which the occupant is paying no more than 30% of monthly or annual income for housing costs, including utilities; and

WHEREAS, ensuring there are affordable housing options for all community members is a key responsibility of the elected officials of the City of Kingston and a critical component of creating a healthy, sustainable, and prosperous community; and

WHEREAS, rising housing and rental costs and a lack of diverse housing opportunities for all community members is in part due to the demand for housing far exceeding the supply of new affordable and workforce housing being developed in the community; and

WHEREAS, a long-term commitment by the City to review and approve new affordable and workforce housing projects is a critical strategy for ensuring there are affordable housing options for all community members; and

WHEREAS, working toward housing solutions is a priority for the well-being of the local residents, the economy, and community sustainability;

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston has made considerable progress in working to address the housing crisis in the County including establishing the Director of Housing Initiatives to oversee all housing-related projects and policies;

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston, adopted the Kingston 2025 Comprehensive Plan in 2015 which states that "Housing choices for residents of all incomes should be provided throughout the City" and includes Goals, Objectives, and Strategies specifically focused on housing including the improvement of existing residential and mixed-use neighborhoods and increasing homeownership rates among City residents with a focus on low- and moderate-income households;

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston, recognizing that rental vacancy rates are at extremely low levels and has declared a housing emergency, formally adopted the Emergency Tenant Protection Act and established a Rent Guidelines Board;

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston is nearing completion of a comprehensive update to the City's zoning code to promote the development of workforce and affordable housing, streamline the development and design review process, promote the development of accessory dwelling units, and promote the development of more walkable and bikeable neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston, in an effort to preserve and protect the City's long-term rental housing stock and ensure that short-term rentals do not become a public nuisance has adopted short term rental regulations and created short term rental registry requirements;

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston, in an effort to ensure tenants in the City have adequate access to legal counsel when facing eviction or potentially facing eviction, has created the Landlord-Tenant Mediation Program;

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City of Kingston developed and adopted the Kingston Fair Housing Plan to ensure equal and fair access to housing in the community and administer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding;

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to housing challenges provides us with an opportunity to improve housing opportunities and community wellbeing for all community members, and to build livable, affordable, and housing-smart communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City of Kingston shall join the Ulster County Housing Smart Communities Initiative;

SECTION 2. That the City of Kingston shall designate the Office of Housing Initiatives to serve as liaison between Ulster County and the municipality;

SECTION 3. Form a housing task force or designate an existing official housing-related body of the City to serve as the group committed to the program;

SECTION 4: Register for participation in the program on the Housing Smart Communities Initiative website;

SECTION 5: Establish or continue a community outreach and educational campaign on the importance of developing a range of housing options;

SECTION 6: Begin implementing a prioritized set of the Housing Smart Actions included in the program.

Submitted to the Mayor this 2^{n} day of Approved by the Mayor this 3^{n} day of

November, 2022

Elisa Tinti, City Clerk

Novender, 2022

Steven T. Noble, Mayor

Adopted by Council on November 1, 2022