

Resolve 5-19/20

Motion to amend to add the word "new" at references to units: 8-0 (Strimling absent) on 10/7/2019

Passage: 8-0 (Strimling absent) on 10/7/2019

Effective 10/17/2019

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

DAVID H. BRENERMAN (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE PORTLAND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS
IN COOPERATION WITH METRO REGIONAL COALITION COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, our region is in need of young workers and families to support our existing and future economy and to offset our region's demographic challenges; and

WHEREAS, the region is losing more and more middle income households because of the high expense of housing; and

WHEREAS, the affordability of housing throughout the greater Portland region continues to decline, according to the Maine State Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, the number and locations of households in our region struggling with the costs of housing are rising, as documented by the Greater Portland Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS, travel between home and work in our region is becoming longer, generating more expense to commuting households and creating more traffic congestion and stress on our transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, the high expense of housing falls heavily on our senior population, making aging in place more difficult; and

WHEREAS, these trends are evidence of a lack of adequate housing choices for current residents, future workers, and seniors, as the region faces a crisis of housing affordability; and

WHEREAS, our region's economic and community wellbeing depends on expanding housing choices, which in turn will support all our residents as well as our current and future economy by easing the challenges detailed above; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities that make up the Metro Regional Coalition, Cape Elizabeth, Falmouth, Gorham, Portland, Scarborough, South Portland, and Westbrook, share a commitment to making housing more affordable for every person no matter what their income level is; and

WHEREAS, all the municipalities of the Metro Regional Coalition have met and jointly agreed

to pursue solutions to this crisis by acting singly and together to encourage the expansion of the number of new housing units that lower and middle income households can afford without incurring unacceptable housing costs burden; and

WHEREAS, the Portland City Council continues to focus local and federal resources on the creation of new housing that is affordable at all income levels, with the goal of producing 2,557 new affordable housing units (256 units per year) by 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Portland City Council will document its progress toward that goal by producing an annual report for the Metro Regional Coalition, detailing progress made in the prior 12 months toward expanding regional housing choices in our community:
and

WHEREAS, the Portland City Council continues to examine policy and land uses in the city to find new ways to incentivize affordable housing development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council shall work with the Greater Portland Council of Governments and the Metro Regional Coalition to expand the number of new housing units that can be afforded by lower and middle income households by adopting and improving policies and incentives, in order to allow our community to contribute to achieving the regional goal of expanding the number of new housing units affordable to lower and middle income households by 10% no later than 2025.