City of Palo Alto
City Council Staff Report

Report Type: Informational Report       Meeting Date: 5/26/2020

Summary Title: Affordable Housing Month Proclamation

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From: City Manager

Lead Department: Planning and Development Services

Attachments:
Attachment A: Affordable Housing Month Proclamation
WHEREAS, affordable housing is a basic human right and yet, each year, thousands of Silicon Valley families and individuals struggle to find an affordable home in this expensive housing market; and

WHEREAS, our region needs a total of 53,689 new affordable rental homes, including 38,689 for those making less than 30% of the area’s median income, in order to meet the existing need; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic will exacerbate the existing housing and homelessness crises; Palo Alto residents have lost their jobs in the last few weeks and are struggling to pay their rent or mortgage; and

WHEREAS, Palo Alto has further responded to the pandemic with urgency and compassion by enacting a citywide moratorium on evictions to protect renters from displacement and support small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the process of economic recovery will be gradual. Palo Alto must put the ongoing need for new affordable housing development, preservation of existing affordable homes, and protection of its most vulnerable residents at the center of its recovery planning to promote the stability of its community; and

WHEREAS, many organizations throughout Silicon Valley are dedicated to providing safe, stable, permanent and affordable housing to all members of the community; these organizations along with local agencies and community members have organized Affordable Housing Month; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Adrian Fine, Mayor of the City of Palo Alto on behalf of the entire City Council do hereby proclaim the month of May as Affordable Housing Month in the City of Palo Alto, to call upon our community to support affordable housing solutions and to recognize the successful efforts of the City of Palo Alto and its partners who seek to improve access to affordable housing in Palo Alto.