

**C** Community Development Committee  
Meeting date: September 19, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	September 14, 2011
Subject:	Establish Public Hearing for LCA Affordable and Lifecycle Housing Goals for the City of Orono for 2011-2020
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes §473.254
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Beth Reetz, Director, Housing and Livable Communities, 651-602-1060
Division/Department:	Community Development

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council conduct a public hearing on November 21, 2011, at 4:30 P.M. in the Metropolitan Council Chambers to receive comment on the Livable Communities Act Local Housing Incentives Account (LCA LHIA) Affordable and Lifecycle Housing goals adopted by the City of Orono on November 22, 2010 for 2011-2020.

**Background**

The Livable Communities Act (LCA), Minnesota State Statute 473.254, requires that communities must have affordable and life-cycle housing goals in place to participate in the LCA. The Council must hold a public hearing prior to adopting the new goals. Communities electing to participate in the LCA must establish their goals, by City Council resolution, and communicate their desire to participate to the Council by November 15 of any year.

Last year, the original goals period (1996-2010) ended and Council staff renegotiated goals for the period 2011-2020 with 93 communities by the statutory deadline of November 15. The City of Orono was unable to submit its resolution by that date. This will fulfill the statutory requirement to hold a public hearing before the Council adopts the affordable and life-cycle housing goals for the City of Orono and any others that might submit a goals resolution by November 15.

As part of the City of Orono's recently submitted 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, it acknowledged its fair share of the region's affordable housing need. For the City of Orono the fair share number is **311** units over the next 10 years.

Although the Council fully supports the need for this total number of new affordable units over the next decade, it also acknowledges the reality of limited funding available to create new affordable housing opportunities. For this reason, the Council asked the City to establish its LCA affordable housing goal as a range of **202** to **311** units for the period 2011 to 2020 with the low end of the range representing the number of units that can be expected to be accomplished given current available funding levels region-wide.

Regarding the City's life-cycle housing goal to diversify the type and density of housing to meet residents' changing housing needs and preferences, the Council asked the City to establish a goal range of **311** to **750** units over the next decade. The low end of the range represents the community's total share of the region's affordable housing need and the high end is the potential number of units permitted by the land use guiding in the City's 2030 Plan Update for medium, high, mixed use, redevelopment, TOD or

similarly named residential development, or the total forecasted household growth for the community to 2020, whichever number is less.

**Rationale**

MN Statutes 473.254 requires the Council to negotiate affordable and life-cycle housing goals with each municipality that elects to participate in the LCA LHIA. The Council must adopt the goals by resolution, after a public hearing by January 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

**Funding**

None

**Known Support / Opposition**

Council staff is not aware of any opposition at this time to the goals being adopted by the City of Orono.