

## Information Item

**Date:** March 19, 2019

**To:** The City Manager

**From:** Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager  
Aaron King, Director of Planning and Development Services

**Subject:** UDO Code Assessment

**Strategic Focus Area:** Livable Neighborhoods

**Strategic Objective:** Improve Character and Condition of Neighborhoods

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



In 2017, Planning and Development Services staff initiated a code assessment of the Unified Development Ordinances. The purpose of this assessment was to find opportunities for making the UDO clearer and easier to use for citizens, developers, and other stakeholders. The UDO was originally adopted by City Council in 1994, and has been amended nearly 300 times in the past 25 years.

The code assessment process, dubbed UDO Clearcode, was undertaken by CodeWright Planners, a consulting firm that specializes in drafting and assessing municipal development ordinances. Multiple opportunities for stakeholder involvement were incorporated in the code assessment process, including initial interviews with approximately 30 individual stakeholders in December 2017; development of a project website ([udoclearcode.com](http://udoclearcode.com)) in winter 2018; and public follow-up stakeholder meetings on the draft assessment document in October 2018.

The recommendations of the code assessment report are primarily related to non-substantive improvements to the UDO. Non-substantive improvements generally deal with aspects of the UDO such as its organization, layout and appearance. However, the code assessment includes recommendations for substantive changes to various ordinance provisions as well.

CodeWright staff presented the final draft code assessment report to the City-County Planning Board in October 2018. The Board accepted the report, and asked staff to begin implementing its recommendations immediately. The first of these recommendations is to take the existing UDO text and re-organize it into the chapter structure outlined in the code assessment. CodeWright staff will also be undertaking this task, which will require public hearings before the Planning Board and City Council. Staff expects to present the re-organized UDO to Council in summer 2019. Additional code assessment recommendations are scheduled to be implemented next fiscal year, including adding graphics to the ordinance and improving the user experience of the online version of the UDO.

Chad Meadows, CodeWright principal, will present a summary of the code assessment process and report recommendations at the February 12<sup>th</sup> Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee.