

## Information Item

**Date:** May 12, 2020

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Angela I. Carmon, City Attorney

**Subject:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Entitled Administration to Create the City of Winston-Salem Housing Justice Act

**Strategic Focus Area:** Livable Neighborhoods

**Strategic Objective:** Expand Housing Assistance Programs

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



At the request of Councilmember Taylor the attached Winston-Salem Housing Justice Act (“Housing Act”), which applies only to residential properties and housing developments receiving city funds, was drafted for review.

- The Housing Act prohibits the recipient of city funds from denying of housing based upon an applicant’s, tenant’s, occupant’s criminal record with a few exceptions such as convictions involving the communication of threats and violent acts.
- The Housing Act also prohibits the denial of housing based upon an applicant’s, tenant’s or occupant’s sources of income which includes federal Housing Choice Vouchers, or assistance from any other housing subsidy program whether paid directly to the program participant, landlord or other representative, financial assistance from any rental assistance program, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security, pension and other retirement benefits, alimony and child support.
- The Housing Act increases the current Affordable (Workforce) Housing requirement (attached) for projects funded with city funds from ten (10%) percent to twenty (20%) percent: (a) 5% of the total units to be leased to households who incomes are 50-80% of area median income, and (b) at least 15% of total units to be leased to households whose incomes are 80-120% of area median income.

This item is for discussion only.