

RESOLUTION NO. PC-2023-**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL
GIVE FIRST READING TO AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE
13 (PLANNING, ZONING, AND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE
COSTA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH
AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA FINDS
AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2021, the City Council adopted a Strategic Plan identifying five key goals to address specific community issues and needs which included to “diversify, stabilize, and increase housing to reflect community needs.” To address this goal, Council identified considering a draft affordable housing ordinance as a priority;

WHEREAS, the City’s adopted 2021-2029 Housing Element includes Program 2A which calls for the City to consider adoption of an affordable housing ordinance;

WHEREAS, the City retained an expert consultant, Keyser Marston Associates Inc. (KMA), to prepare a Financial Evaluation in order to evaluate supportable affordable housing requirements and make policy recommendations for a potential affordable housing ordinance;

WHEREAS, the City Council held two joint study sessions with the Planning Commission on May 16, 2023 and July 11, 2023 with all persons having the opportunity to speak for and against the proposal;

WHEREAS, a draft affordable housing ordinance has been prepared based on the direction of the City Council and Planning Commission and considering KMA’s Financial Evaluation as well as the feedback received during public comments and during stakeholders meetings with housing advocates and housing developers;

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held by the Planning Commission on November 13, 2023 with all persons having the opportunity to speak for and against the proposal;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission voted 4-0 (Chair Ereth, Commissioner Rojas, and Commissioner Klepack absent) to continue the item to December 11, 2023;
and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by Planning Commission on December 11, 2023 with all persons having the opportunity to speak for and against the proposal;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission voted X-X to recommend that the City Council give first reading to adopt an ordinance to amend Title 13 of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code to establish minimum affordable housing requirements.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COSTA MESA PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. Adoption of this resolution is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule). Under Section 15061(b)(3), the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the project is exempt from CEQA. This Ordinance will not affect the physical environment by permitting a new use or intensifying an existing use. Instead, the Ordinance establishes affordable housing requirements through a range of means for individual projects. There is no potential for the changes to result in significant impact on the environment. Furthermore, the Ordinance is not considered a project as defined pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21065 because the Ordinance will not cause either direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.
2. The Planning Commission recommends the City Council approve the ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CEQA exemption for this Ordinance reflects the independent judgement of the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any section, division, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this resolution, or the document in the record in support of this resolution, are for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of December, 2023.

Adam Ereth, Chair
Costa Mesa Planning Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE)ss
CITY OF COSTA MESA)

I, Scott Drapkin, Secretary to the Planning Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. PC-2023-__ was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City of Costa Mesa Planning Commission held on December 11, 2023 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Scott Drapkin, Secretary
Costa Mesa Planning Commission

Resolution No. PC-2023-__