Resolution Rejecting the Seattle 2024 Comprehensive Plan and Demanding Seattle Live Up to Its Stated Housing and Climate Goals

WHEREAS the City of Seattle has been in a self-declared Housing Affordability Crisis since 2014[1] and a Homelessness Crisis since 2015[2]; and

WHEREAS the City of Seattle declared in 2020 the need for a Green New Deal to reduce greenhouse gasses and environmental injustice[3][4]; and

WHEREAS a study by Microsoft in 2019 found that Seattle was already lacking 194,000 affordable homes;[5] and

WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature passed HB-1110 (titled "Increasing middle housing in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing")[6], which requires Seattle to permit "four homes per residential lot, and six per lot if located within a quarter-mile of a major transit stop or if two of the homes are affordable";[7] and

WHEREAS Mayor Bruce Harrell ran on a platform of an "Emerald City Plan" to address global warming and our environmental crisis[8] and solving our homelessness crisis[9][10] and our housing

---

[1] https://web.archive.org/web/20160302031456/http://www.seattle.gov/hala/about
[2] https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/mayor-county-exec-declare-state-of-emergency-over-homelessness/
[3] https://www.seattle.gov/environment/climate-change
[4] https://durkan.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2020/01/Final-Executive-Order-2020-01-Advancing-a-Green-New-Deal-for-Seattle_.pdf
[5] https://www.theurbanist.org/2020/01/29/housing-action-on-a-truly-massive-scale/
[6] https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1110&Year=2023&Initiative=false
[7] https://www.sightline.org/2023/05/08/how-the-washington-legislature-burst-the-housing-abundance-dam/
[8] https://www.bruceforseattle.com/bruce-harrell-announces-emerald-city-plan-to-take-on-climate-crisis-ensure-climate-resilience/
[9] https://www.bruceforseattle.com/bruce-harrell-unveils-homelessness-plans-decries-lack-of-action-to-help-people-out-of-encampments-as-school-year-begins/
[10] https://www.bruceforseattle.com/current-leaders-failing-seattle-by-not-dedicating-majority-of-american-rescue-plan-resources-to-homelessness-crisis/

affordability & housing justice[11] crisis, stating “We know the solution to the affordable housing crisis is more housing, and I want to make sure we develop that housing in an intersectional, equitable, and thoughtful manner”[12], recognizing that while he “grew up in a redlined Central District home, which we could afford on my dad’s union paycheck. Today, that wouldn’t be possible because of our city’s dearth of affordable housing and homes”, and declaring he will “work to protect communities against displacement and gentrification”[13]; and

WHEREAS the present Seattle City Council Members all ran on platforms of addressing climate change, homelessness, and housing affordability; and

WHEREAS in 2023 Seattle resoundingly passed the I-135 Social Housing Initiative with a 14-point voting spread[14] to create a Seattle Social Housing Developer that will build permanently affordable “missing middle housing”[15] to enable the middle-class to live in Seattle; and

WHEREAS Mayor Bruce Harrell has announced[16] the 2024 One Seattle Comprehensive Plan[17]; and

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell’s One Seattle Comprehensive Plan makes only a single and off-handed mention of Social Housing and provides no plan to staff and fund the Seattle Social Housing Developer;[18] and

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell’s One Seattle Comprehensive Plan sets no target to build more homes over 20 years[19][20][21] than if we make literally zero changes to our current housing and environmental plans[22]; and

---

[11] https://www.bruceforseattle.com/why-im-the-best-candidate-for-south-seattle-bruce-harrell/
[12] https://publicola.com/2021/07/09/publicola-questions-bruce-harrell/
[13] https://seattleforeveryone.org/2021/09/20/2021-seattle-general-elections-mayoral-questionnaire-on-housing/
[14] https://ballotpedia.org/Seattle,_Washington,_Initiative_135,_Social_Housing_Developer_Authority_Measure_(February_2023)
[15] https://medium.com/@matthutchinsaia/give-middle-housing-a-shot-f254c4046165
[16] https://harrell.seattle.gov/2024/03/05/mayor-harrell-releases-draft-one-seattle-comprehensive-plan-expanding-housing-opportunities-across-all-neighborhoods/
[17] https://www.seattle.gov/opcd/one-seattle-plan
[18] Page 92, https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanDraftPlan2024.pdf
[19] https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanGrowthStrategySummary2024.pdf
[20] Page 16, https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanDraftPlan2024.pdf
[21] https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanNeighborhoodResidentialConceptsDRAFT2024.pdf
[22] Page 14, https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanDEISAppendices.pdf

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan has a target to build just 4,000 homes per year through 2044[23], which is *nearly 30% less* than the number of homes we've built since 1990 as our homelessness and affordability crisis spiraled out of control;[24] and

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan aims to produce 50% less homes than its own research determined were needed;[25] and

WHEREAS A Shoreline 2020 Housing study found that people living in modern dense housing near Light Rail have less than 1/10th the carbon footprint of people living on the edge of the Urban Growth Boundary in East King County[26]; and

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan has created zoning and land use guidelines that will result in more trees being removed from Seattle;[27] and

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan does not create zoning and land policy that prioritizes housing[28] that is affordable[29] to median income households;[30] and

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan continues to exempt wealthier and whiter neighborhoods from taking an equitable share of development while narrowly focusing the bulk of future development in historically redlined neighborhoods;[31] and

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan continues to focus development along arterials, which has been proven to subject residents to toxic microplastics and other pollution that creates asthma and other health risks; and

WHEREAS Representative Jessica Bateman, the sponsor of the missing middle bill HB-1110, stated that Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan "defeats the intent & purpose of HB 1110"[32] and "legalizing middle housing isn't meaningful if your development regulations prohibit it from being built"[33]; and

---

[23] Page 16, https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanDraftPlan2024.pdf
[24] https://twitter.com/HutchinsMatt/status/1765434784380289061
[25] Page 60, https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/OngoingInitiatives/HousingChoices/SeattleMarketRateHousingNeedsAndSupplyAnalysis2021.pdf
[26] https://www.shorelinewa.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/51414/637535559520430000
[27] https://twitter.com/HutchinsMatt/status/1765382481438720361
[28] https://www.kuow.org/stories/small-apartments-from-100-years-ago-offer-townhome-alternative
[29] https://twitter.com/HutchinsMatt/status/1765378465040306426
[30] https://twitter.com/HutchinsMatt/status/1766491248733650945
[31] Page 20, https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanDraftPlan2024.pdf
[32] https://twitter.com/jessdbateman/status/1765468926325203156
[33] https://twitter.com/jessdbateman/status/1765838477621616930

WHEREAS Representative Julia Reed, a co-sponsor of HB-1110, stated "Pretty disappointed with what I'm seeing so far in the City of Seattle comprehensive plan and expressing those concerns to City reps. The largest city in the state should be maximizing the use of the tools WA Leg is providing them, not doing the minimum";[34] and

WHEREAS Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan ignored the many hundreds of people who urged the Mayor and Office of Planning & Community Development to study Option 6 which would add 200,000 homes by 2044;[35]

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 43rd LD Democrats find that Mayor Harrell's One Seattle ***Comprehensive Plan is entirely inadequate*** to address the environmental, homelessness, and housing affordability crises that Mayor Bruce Harrell, the entire City Council, a super-majority of residents, and community activists across the political spectrum all agree we are facing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 43rd LD Democrats condemn this plan and demand that Mayor Bruce Harrell and the Office of Planning & Community Development enact Option 6 which would add 200,000 homes by 2044; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 43rd LD Democrats demand that Mayor Bruce Harrell and the Office of Planning & Community Development implement a plan that embraces the spirit and intent of HB-1110 to build missing middle housing for families and middle-income residents that *also* promotes the City of Seattle's tree cover goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 43rd LD Democrats demand that Mayor Bruce Harrell and the Office of Planning & Community Development implement a plan that includes an ambitious plan to embraces the Seattle Social Housing Developer and deliver a significant amount of social housing over the next 20 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 43rd LD Democrats call on the Seattle City Council to unanimously reject Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Comprehensive Plan and demand the Office of Planning & Community Development listen to the overwhelming majority of commenters who called for a dramatic investment in more housing by delivering a plan for 200,000 homes, social housing, and the missing middle housing required by HB-1110; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the 43rd LD Democrats endorses activism to pressure Mayor Bruce Harrell, the Office of Planning & Community Development, and the Seattle City Council to replace this inadequate One Seattle Comprehensive Plan with Option 6 which will build 200,000 homes.

---

[34] https://twitter.com/RepJuliaReed/status/1765149990387859487

[35] https://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2023/01/calls-for-alternative-6-to-keep-seattle-housing-development-from-slowing-as-city-holds-virtual-citywide-meeting-on-comp-plan-update/

Submitted to the 19 March 2024 General Meeting of the 43rd LD Democrats by Chair Paul Chapman, 43rd LD Technology Chair Liam Steckler, 43rd LD King County Alternate Representative Justan Peterson, and 43rd Environmental Caucus Member Robin Briggs, 43rd LD King County Rep Andrew Ashiofu, 43rd LD PCO Chair Ryan Driscoll, 43rd LD Meetings and Events Chair Ry Armstrong

Passed by the 43rd LD Democrats at the 19 March 2024 General Meeting