

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION

OF THE

COUNCIL

No.2023-12

WHEREAS, the Newport City Council (the "Council"), at its Goal Setting Workshop, identified housing as a top priority; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Newport (the "City") is facing an unprecedented housing crisis that has made average mortgage and rent prices unaffordable for families who remain in the community; AND

WHEREAS, median gross rents in the City have increased thirty-five percent (35.7%) since 2015, a rate nearly double the State's average, according to the US Census Bureau; AND

WHEREAS, the average cost of owning a home in the City has increased by over sixty-four percent (64.5%) since 2015, according to the US Census Bureau data; AND

WHEREAS, the City has only added a net 24 units (+0.18%) of housing since 2000 according to US Census Data; AND

WHEREAS, more than ninety percent (90%) of the eleven (11) square miles of land in the City is already built-out, leaving only a small amount of land vacant and available for new housing development; AND

WHEREAS, the City has previously issued a Request for Proposals for the site commonly known as the Coggeshall School located on Van Zandt Avenue; AND

WHEREAS, the City owns a number of underutilized properties which may be suitable for the development of much needed housing; AND

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island has allocated an unprecedented amount of funding to support the development of much needed housing in the state; AND

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island General Assembly and Governor Daniel J. McKee have made housing a priority; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that the City seize this opportunity to pursue comprehensive efforts to increase housing accessibility and affordability in Newport; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the City consider reopening its Request for Proposals for the Coggeshall School for a period of sixty days to permit existing proposers to revise proposals given the change in market conditions, and for any new applicants interested in responding; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the City provide the Council with proposals and its recommendations for the Coggeshall School no later than June 30, 2023; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the City provide the Council with monthly reporting on the number of new housing units added or lost each month; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the City provide a roster of all vacant municipal buildings, including current conditions and estimated timelines for potential redevelopment from the City's Office of Planning and Economic Development, at a date not later than September 30, 2023.

Xay Khamsyvoravong
David Carlin

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
FEBRUARY 8, 2023



LAURA C. SWISTAK
CITY CLERK