

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: February 4, 2019

Subject: Affordable Housing in the Twin Cities: Trends in Production and Policy Responses

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 473.254

Staff Prepared/Presented: Krysten Ryba-Tures, Senior Researcher (651-602-1821); Tara Beard, Housing Policy Analyst (651-602-1051)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

Community Development's Research Team will publish a *MetroStats* report based on the Council's tracking of new affordable housing added in the seven-county Twin Cities region in 2017. The 2017 affordable housing production data will be available for download on the Council's website on February 4.

Under [Minn. Stat. 473.254](#), the Metropolitan Council is responsible for preparing a "comprehensive report card on affordable and life-cycle housing in each municipality in the metropolitan area." The Council fulfills this responsibility by conducting an annual survey of local governments regarding new affordable housing. The Council supplements the information submitted by local governments with data collected by [HousingLink](#) on affordable rental housing and the initial sales prices of new owner-occupied housing listed in county parcel data and real estate listings. According to statute, the Council's data on new affordable housing must "include information on government, nonprofit, and marketplace efforts" and capture all new housing that meets the Council's affordability thresholds, including units added without public subsidy or income restrictions.

The new report and Committee presentation will contain information on:

- the location and characteristics of the region's newly added affordable units in 2017;
- an updated "big picture" of affordable housing demand across the region;
- whether new affordable rental production offsets losses of naturally occurring affordable housing
- how the region's cities and townships are responding to affordable housing demands; and
- which key strategies of Council's Housing Policy Plan are bearing fruit four years following its adoption.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Collecting and sharing information on new affordable housing production is a key part of the Council's contribution to the Thrive Equity strategy of "Creating real choices in where we live... for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability." With information on both how much new affordable housing is built and where those units are, the Council and its partners can more effectively implement policies and priorities to create housing choices across the region.