



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shoreline City Council discusses Comprehensive Housing Strategy, Sister Cities delegation expenses and City benefits

At its September 5 meeting, Shoreline City Council provided staff direction on the Comprehensive Housing Strategy, Sister Cities delegation visit to Boryeong, South Korea and the City's health benefits policies.

Comprehensive Housing Strategy

After discussing a proposed program to develop a Comprehensive Housing Strategy, one of the Council's goals for 2007-2008, Council directed staff to begin the process of forming a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

The committee will host public open houses to gather community input, develop a housing vision statement for Shoreline and develop implementation strategies. The City is now accepting applications for residents interested in serving on the committee and the Council will appoint members in October.

The CAC is just one part of the process to develop the Comprehensive Housing Strategy; other components include an inventory of Shoreline housing and a review of applicable regulations.

The idea for a Comprehensive Housing Strategy followed the repeal of cottage housing, reflecting the Council's recognition that the City needs to look at all community needs to meet housing objectives. The Comprehensive Housing Strategy will cover many topics including Shoreline's housing needs, economic drivers and community values.

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Sister Cities Delegation Expenses

In 2002, the City of Shoreline formally recognized the City of Boryeong, South Korea, as its first designated sister city. Since then, delegations from each city have visited each other and participated in other cultural and educational exchanges to strengthen their relationship.

Boryeong officials have invited a delegation from Shoreline composed of Shoreline Sister City Association members and City officials to visit again this fall. At its September 5 meeting, Council discussed formally accepting the invitation and paying for the Mayor and one staff member to attend, purchase a gift and host a dinner. The estimated cost is \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Council expressed support and directed staff to bring back the proposal for a formal vote at a future Council business meeting.

Domestic Partners Health Care Expenses

During the past year, the City of Shoreline has received requests from employees to add dependent coverage for domestic partners which it does not provide at this time. The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Trust, through which the City obtains health care coverage, now allows this option to cities. Because of the City's method of paying for health related benefits, the fiscal impact of adding domestic partner coverage is minor.

Council support was mixed for this policy change and will continue discussion at a future meeting.

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