



CITY OF MILWAUKIE NEWS

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MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL DECLARES HOUSING EMERGENCY, ESTABLISHES CODE RELATING TO NO-CAUSE EVICTIONS

MILWAUKIE, OR – At its Tuesday, April 19 meeting, Milwaukie City Council adopted an ordinance to declare a housing emergency in the city in response to recent reports from housing experts about the evolving housing shortage in the region.

The Portland metropolitan region had the lowest residential vacancy rate in the nation—2.4 percent—as of the fourth quarter of 2015, which has resulted in significant rent increases over the last several years. As of 2015, rent was increasing at 11.3 percent yearly. Given Milwaukie’s close proximity to Portland, the city has experienced increased displacement of residents in recent years, and increased housing uncertainty for many residents.

“What began as a problem primarily for Portland, housing shortages are rapidly becoming a crisis for the entire Portland metropolitan area,” said Mayor Mark Gamba. “It’s imperative that we act now to address this issue to protect the livability of our community before it spirals out of hand.”

During last night’s meeting, City Council also adopted an ordinance to increase renter protections and curb no-cause evictions. In order to provide tenants enough time to find and secure a new rental unit, City Council adopted and added Chapter 5.60 to the Municipal Code of Milwaukie, which requires a 90-day minimum written notice for a no-cause termination of tenancy.

Near the end of 2015 and beginning months of 2016, the city monitored the evolving housing shortage. In response, City Council heard a panel of housing experts at its March 29, 2016 Study Session. These regional experts discussed the state of housing and its impacts on the community, as well as the housing related legislation that was recently passed by the State of Oregon. At the April 5, 2016 City Council meeting, Council members continued to discuss the issue, as well as the efforts of the Oregon Legislature as it considered adopting laws to provide more protection for tenants.

For more information about these ordinances, please visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov.

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