



The Magnolia apartment building on Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard brought 50 new, affordable apartment homes to the Eliot Neighborhood.

Dramatic Steps Urged on Housing Affordability

Report calls for immediate, bold action

Portland will not solve its housing affordability crisis with half-measures and business as usual, a new City Club of Portland report has concluded. The report issued this month calls on city and state to take bold and immediate steps, on a variety of fronts.

"The city has a housing emergency, and timid measures won't solve it," said City Club Executive Director Mike Marshall. "Our research committee found that bold reforms to how the city manages land and regulates landlord-tenant relations are required. This issue goes right to the heart of livability and equity issues for all Portlanders."

Recommendations laid out in the report call for a city ban on no-

cause evictions and creation of a just-cause eviction policy, while asking the Oregon Legislature to end a ban on local rent regulation.

In addition, the report says the city should remove barriers and identify incentives that encourage development of more housing types, working with neighborhoods to dispel concerns about "missing middle housing," the housing options like duplexes and triplexes that aren't allowed in Portland's more exclusively zoned single-family neighborhoods.

The City of Portland, Portland Development Commission and Metro should fund a land bank for affordable housing that strategically purchases properties and the Portland City Council should create and fund dedicated revenue streams to build new subsidized affordable housing units, the report says.

The city should also implement a landlord licensing system

that would allow for housing data collection, increased home inspections and education. A minority report further recommended that the city update zoning to allow middle housing development immediately.

"Portland does not have acceptable housing affordability for a city of its size, demographics, sensibilities and priorities. Our laws, policies and accepted practices regarding zoning, lending, and the rights of renters and owners of single-family homes no longer serve the population well," the report states.

A City Club member-volunteer research committee began studying the issue of housing affordability in July. Over eight months, it interviewed 20 experts and stakeholders, and reviewed dozens of documents.

The full report is available online at pdxcityclub.com/housingaffordability.

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May 14, 2016

Hilton Portland & Executive Tower,
921 SW 6th Avenue, Portland

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With our Pathway 1000 Initiative, PCRI will develop

1,000 affordable homes prioritized for rent and purchase by residents displaced from North and Northeast Portland neighborhoods where they have historic roots. Join us and learn more at pcrihome.org