



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Development

763-512-2345 / 763-512-2344 (fax)

Golden Valley City Council Work Session

April 10, 2024

Agenda Item

1. Discussion Item Regarding Sacred Communities Ordinance

Prepared By

Kendra Lindahl, Planning Consultant

Summary

In the 2023 session, the Minnesota Legislature adopted its Omnibus Labor Policy Bills in both the House and Senate. Within these omnibus bills were sections on the topic of "Sacred Communities" requiring them to be allowed in all municipalities. These Sacred Communities would be primarily comprised of residential "Micro-Units," which could be located on property owned and used by places of worship and other religious institutions. The majority of regulations and requirements for Sacred Communities are outlined in state statute, such as being less than 400 square feet, anchored in place, insulated, providing traditional or low voltage electricity, and utilizing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, among others. Golden Valley, along with other communities, must update its zoning code text to reflect these new requirements.

City planning staff presented this topic to the Planning Commission at the September 11, 2023, October 9, 2023 and November 13, 2023 meetings. An informal public hearing was held at the March 25, 2024 Planning Commission meeting and the Commission voted to recommend approval of the draft ordinance with the addition of a condition requiring that city staff hold a community meeting once the applicant has submitted the plan. Staff continues to recommend approval of the ordinance as drafted.

Legal Considerations

The ordinance has been reviewed by legal and those comments were incorporated into the draft ordinance.

Equity Considerations

The ordinance was submitted to equity for review and those comments were incorporated into the draft ordinance. The draft ordinance addresses equity pillars 2, 3 and 4.

Recommended Action

Council should discuss the draft ordinance and provide feedback to staff for inclusion in the draft ordinance which is scheduled for City Council action at the May 7th meeting.

Supporting Documents

- [2024-03-25 PC packet - Sacred Communities](#)