



## **REQUEST FOR ACTION**

### **Ordinance Second Reading and Adoption of the Housing Code Text Amendment**

**MEETING DATE:**

July 20, 2026

**ORIGINATING DEPT:**

Community Development

**AGENDA SECTION:**

Ordinance Second Readings

**PRESENTER:**

Michael Spindler-Krage

### **Action Requested:**

Adopting an Ordinance amending the Housing Code (Chapter 7) of the Rochester Code of Ordinances.

### **Report Narrative:**

On March 9, 2026, the Council was informed of proposed revisions to the Housing Code (Chapter 7) of the Rochester Code of Ordinances. On April 20, 2026, a public hearing was held at the Council meeting for ordinance content approval to provide further opportunities for community members to provide public testimony and inquiries regarding the housing code update. Based on that public comment, an additional amendment is recommended:

The amendments proposed are largely clerical in nature. Noteworthy amendments include:

- Chapter 7-2. Definitions: from follow-up to the public comment given on April 20, 2026, updated the definition of family/household to reflect the definition of household in the Unified Development Code.

### **Priorities & Foundational Principles:**

Public Safety

### **Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:**

The City holds public safety as a foundational principle to serve and protect community members. It is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the city to establish and enforce minimum housing standards.

Council directed staff to hold a public hearing and to provide additional outreach to renters in advance of that hearing. In response, staff contacted all licensed housing providers with a request to post informational flyers for residents and undertook targeted communication through City-led social media and through requesting features in newsletters sent by the Public Library, RNeighbors, the Olmsted County Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Rochester Area Builders, and the office of a local state legislator.

While minimum housing standards carry some compliance costs, they are necessary to protect health and safety. The proposed updates aim to balance resident protection with reasonable expectations for property owners. To support that balance, the ordinance generally follows established model codes such as the International Property Maintenance Code.

From an equity perspective, safe housing disproportionately benefits renters who are typically unable to make large improvements to their dwellings. Targeted outreach for this update helps ensure renters have equitable access to information and can participate meaningfully in the public process.

**Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:**

April 18, 2022: Council - Housing Code Amended

February 13, 2026: Email communication to all housing providers to notify of proposed housing code amendments

February 19, 2026: Meeting with Rochester Multi Housing Association to inform of proposed housing code amendments

March 9, 2026: Study Session - Housing Code Update

April 20, 2026: Council - Housing Code Text Amendment public hearing

May 18, 2026: Council - Housing Code Text Amendment approval and direction to prepare an Ordinance for first reading

June 15, 2026: Council - Ordinance First Reading Housing Code Text Amendment

**Fiscal & Resource Impact:**

No financial impacts are had on the City as a result of this change.

**Alternative Action(s):**

No alternative actions are recommended at this time.

**Prepared By:**

Taryn Edens

**Attachments:**

[Exhibit - Ordinance Summary](#)

[Draft Ordinance - Chapter 7 Housing Code](#)