

From: [Andrew Calkins](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#); "kcccowmeeting@gmail.com"
Subject: KCHA Comment on Ordinance 2020-0203
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:37:39 PM
Attachments: [Ordinance 2020-0203.pdf](#)

To Whom it May Concern:

Attached please find written comment on Ordinance 2020-0203 to be heard by the Committee of the Whole on June 30th, submitted by the King County Housing Authority. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Best,

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King County **Housing** Authority
We transform lives through housing



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Executive Director
Stephen J. Norman

June 30th, 2020

King County Council
516 Third Ave, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Ordinance 2020-0203, Removing Restrictions Related to the Disposition of Real Property for Less than Fair Market Value

Members of the King County Council:

I am writing on behalf of the King County Housing Authority to urge the council to pass Ordinance 2020-0203 – a bill which will assist in the siting and accelerate the development of new affordable housing in King County. If approved by voters, this charter amendment would bring the King County charter in line with state law allowing local governments to transfer surplus property to public, private, and non-profit entities for the development of affordable housing at below market value.

In 2018, the state legislature passed Third Substitute HB 2382, creating a mechanism for state and local governments to transfer surplus property for use as affordable housing at below market value or at no cost to the purchaser. Local adoption would strengthen the financial feasibility of new affordable housing projects proposed for development here in King County. In a growing region like our own, land to develop affordable housing is increasingly scarce and very often too costly to support affordable housing development without substantial investment from other state and local funders. As a large holder of land, King County can strategically use its surplus property to benefit affordable housing development.

The need for affordable housing and homelessness services is as stark as ever -- even before the COVID-19 economic downturn, over 156,000 King County households were cost burdened and over 8,300 students were experiencing homelessness annually. We encourage the County to move forward with this amendment so that our region can use this flexibility to increase affordable housing development and address the affordable housing needs of the region.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all you are doing to support our communities during this time.

Sincerely,


Stephen Norman
Executive Director

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