



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF BANGOR

ANNE M. KRIEG AICP
DIRECTOR

Memorandum

To: Business and Economic Development Committee (BED)
From: Robyn Stanicki
Date: January 28, 2024
Regarding: Rental Registry Update

The Community Development Officer would like to update the Committee of the work we are doing to improve the quality and affordability of the City's rental housing with community engagement to receive feedback on these ideas. City Staff plan ongoing consultation with property owners, residents, local advocacy groups and committees, as well as city departments and local public service agencies, which will be used to prepare a detailed proposal as requested by this Council.

Previous council discussions of the 2019 Housing Work Group have endorsed their [recommendation](#) to develop a rental registration program. That report estimated that nearly half of City residents live in rental units, and over half our housing units are rentals. Therefore, the quality and affordability of the rental market in Bangor has a broad impact. A registry will advance the goals of this Council by prioritizing safe and affordable housing to promote and improve health outcomes, social well-being, and economic vitality and to evaluate our housing needs with an inventory of units that are currently available. The Community Development division is specifically interested in expanding or adapting our current programs which support property owners and residents or to develop resources useful for people moving to the area and city departments providing public safety or neighborhood services.

Councilors expressed the benefits of a registration program combined with our periodic health and safety inspections, using these evaluations to assist with repairs, improvements, or upgrades to reduce operating costs and make housing more affordable. The City has several programs that provide cost assistance readily available; increasing our rehabilitation budget for CDBG funds reflects the growing need for this support and regular outreach to our registration list can promote this more widely.

Preliminary conversations have found that landlords and property managers generally support ways to collaborate on mutual housing priorities and want to provide input and suggestions on how to implement this strategy.

Staff anticipates compiling a summary of the outreach as well as recommendations for the Committee and Council action by the end of March.

No action is requested at this time.