



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety Committee
PRESENTER: Keith Williams, Neighborhood and Community Services
SUBJECT: Earned Release Date Voucher
DATE: September 13, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

This item is an informational briefing on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) and City of Tacoma regarding the DOC's Earned Release Housing Voucher program.

BACKGROUND:

In Washington State, individuals mandated to community supervision remain incarcerated past their earned release date if they are unable to secure approved housing. To address this issue, the Washington State Voucher Program offers three-month voucher assistance for private housing to incarcerated individuals who are unable to secure approved housing prior to their release. The MOU outlines the conditions under which the DOC may identify housing vendors and inform the City for verification of adherence to City code.

ISSUE:

The MOU outlines criteria by which vendors may participate in the Earned Release Date Housing Voucher Program which include:

- Adherence to DOC's housing standards (developed in conjunction with the City and based on local building codes)
- Proof of a valid City business license for rental of real estate
- Self-certification of compliance with City zoning codes
- Self-certification of compliance with Washington State Landlord Tenant Act and local, state and federal Fair Housing Laws
- Participation in the City of Tacoma's Crime Free Housing program

The DOC is agreeing to assist the City in limiting the community impact of transitional housing. These include:

- DOC attendance at Neighborhood Council meetings as requested
- Adherence to the City's Provisional Rental License by not considering new referrals or approving new plans of properties under provisional licenses until the requirements of those licenses are met
- Facilitation of a forum for housing vendors at which the City is invited to participate and provide training and outreach information.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.