

# City Council Approves Affordable Housing Plan

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Charlottesville City Council has said expanding affordable housing in the city is a priority. Tuesday night it tackled the topic; addressing where things stand and where the city can go from here.

City council is taking charge of boosting affordable housing in Charlottesville.

"We don't want to be a city where you have to be affluent to live here," said Councilman Dave Brown.

Currently 10 percent of Charlottesville's housing supply is considered affordable. Monday, council voted on a new goal to boost that percentage to 15 by the year 2025.

"We want to be a city where you can be a part of the workforce, work for city government, work as a police officer, teacher, firefighter, and afford to live here," said Brown.

Melissa Celi with Neighborhood Development Services presented the approved plan.

"I think it is a very bold move by council, a lot of localities don't even have an affordable housing goal," she said. "And the ones that do, the range is typically from 10 to 20 percent."

Celi says reaching the goal in 15 years will not be easy.

"It's definitely going to be a combination of things," Celi said. "It's going to take very strong partnerships with our non-profit developers, with our for-profit developers within the community itself, there's no magic cure, no magic solution."

City council did not commit a dollar amount to reaching its new goal but says it will look towards public and private funding to make it possible.