



**CITY COUNCIL Agenda Item #19-106**

**Date: March 27, 2019**

**Consent  Discussion**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion of Rental Inspection Programs

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Planning & Community Development

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Staff does not recommend pursuing a rental inspection program at this time

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME/INITIATIVE:** Housing/Develop strategy to address housing shortage and ensure housing for all incomes and stages of life.

**PRIOR ACTION:** None

**EXPENDITURE REQUIRED:** None

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** N/A

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:** N/A

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** One of the Council's goals for this year was to have a discussion of rental inspections programs. The Planning Director has had experience managing a rental inspection program when he was the Planning Director for the City of Barre (2008-2014) which is a community with such a program. The purpose of rental inspections is to address health and safety violations. In Barre, there were many units that failed to meet basic requirements such as railings on stairs, smoke detectors, having GFI protection on some outlets, and heating units sufficient to heat apartments. Barre started with one inspector and eventually worked up to three with an emphasis on fire and safety codes. The results have been mixed with some improvements but the pace of change was always slower than desired. There was a hope that it would improve the quality of the units, but it really only impacted the safety of units (which was good). We have not had reported safety violations like those in Barre City so staff has not supported pursuing this tool here.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** None

**INTERESTED PARTIES:** Housing Task Force; Property Owners; Residents

**CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Hoffman".