

2022 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

..Title
CDD 22-03

TITLE Exploring Options to Allow Residents to Age in Place

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BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Community Development Department
Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney

Sponsor(s): Planning Commission

History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

Aging in place has become an issue in the City for residents, especially given the high price of housing. Many Sunnyvale residents that responded on this issue in the City's survey on age-friendliness associated with the recently adopted Housing Strategy. While there are several age friendly strategies included in the Housing Strategy, funding programs that can assist homeowners with home improvements through the Housing Division, existing City policies associated with aging in place, and requirements in the Building Code related to the topic, the Planning Commission expressed the desire to do more to assist residents to age in place.

What are the key elements of the study?

Aging in place can enable seniors to continue living in a familiar environment as they age, including living near other members of their social network, which can be important for both mental and physical health. Moreover, many older residents, particularly those that own their homes and have lived in the same home for a long time, would have substantially higher housing costs if they moved to another home in the region. While remaining in the same home will not be possible or desirable for all older adults as they age, addressing age-friendliness in housing affords those who wish to remain in their home the opportunity.

This study may include:

- Hiring a consultant who has specialized expertise in the topic;
- Conducting robust public outreach to understand what type of assistance or information is needed;
- Creating policies and/or regulations that promote aging in place;
- Looking for ways to incentivize aging in place concepts in new residential development; and

- Conducting surveys with other jurisdictions or non-profits on the topic.

Estimated years to complete study: 1-2 years

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$100,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement

Staff does not have the expertise on the topic to conduct this study internally. Funding would be used to conduct robust public outreach, understand the options to consider for encouragement of aging in place, make modifications to existing documents to add policies or requirements associated with the study, and to study potential new funding sources to potentially establish new programs.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue/savings.