# FY20 CRB Annual Report

In response to Order 211345: That this Council's Committee on Housing and Community Development review the findings of the Condo Conversion Annual

Report.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone City of Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development-Housing Division www.somervillema.gov/housing

# Condo Conversion Background

- Any existing residential property is required to be converted before the units can be sold individually
  - Most conversions are for rental properties or properties that are both owner-occupied and rented (such as with a 2 family)
- Former ordinance went into effect in 1985, but was **not** effective in protecting tenants from the negative impacts of displacement

# Why did we update this ordinance?

- Tenant protections were rarely provided because most units were delivered vacant & after displacement already occurred
- No expiration date allowed owners to get permits in advance and displace future tenants without providing protections with their permit already in-hand
- Tenant protections were outdated and ordinance provided Board with no means of enforcement

# **Updated Ordinance**

- The Condo Conversion Ordinance was updated and approved by City Council in March, 2019
  - Immediate legal action was taken against the City, which delayed actual implementation until the October 7, 2019
     CRB hearing
- The FY 21 Annual Report covers the last 3 months of the former ordinance being in effect and the first 9 months of the updated Ordinance being enforced

#### Vacant Units-

- The percent of units delivered vacant went from 71% in FY19 to 40% in FY20
  - Many more tenants receiving protections of ordinance including notice, relocation funds and the right to purchase the unit

#### Board Enforcement

- CRB has successfully ensured tenants are always provided protections
  - New tools
    - Tenant notice
    - Compliance hearings
    - Final hearings

#### Tenant Notice-

- All current and former tenants (within the past 12 months) receive hearing notice directly from Board staff
  - Ensures tenants know and understand their rights and are connected with resources if needed
  - Ensures tenants can address the Board

Notice Sent	Current T	Former T	Notice Sent	Current T	Former T
FY20	13	6	FY21	25	22

#### Relocation Payments

- Now required for any tenants who 1) leave within notice period and 2)
  had not already given owner notice to vacate prior to owner initiating
  condo conversion process
- As of annual report- 5/11 units had received relocation payment
  - Now, 10/11 units have received payment and 1 remains pending

FY21-7 units pending payments, 5 received payment, 1 purchase

### FY21 Conversions so far

Number of new applications-39 (July 2020-March 2021)

- 10 applications for NRCP, 12 for NRCP/PCP, 1 NRCP/FCP(tenant purchase), 16
   PCP
- An additional 7 Final applications (14 units) were issued Final Permits (counted in FY20 when initially submitted)

Number of new units-83 (July 2020-March 2021)

FY20-81 applications and 174 units had been submitted by the February hearing

## FY21 Conversions so far

#### Vacant Units

- 24 of the 39 new applications submitted (61% or 51 Units) were delivered vacant
  - o 7 applications (including 11 units) were for **fully owner-occupied** properties
  - 6 applications were for partially owner-occupied properties and included 6 owner-occupied units
    - 34 total rental units submitted for conversion vacant- 41% of total units
  - 11 applications (29% or 27 rental units) for fully rented properties were delivered vacant, subject to 1 year waiting period

# FY21 Conversions so far

Right to Purc	hase-FY21
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#Bedrooms	Average Offer	# Units	# Bedrooms	Average Offer	# Units		
1	\$550,000.00	1	1	\$525,257	7		
2	\$740,876.4717		2	\$797,900	10		
3	\$955,526.67	15	3	\$980,132	34		
4	\$884,142.86	7	4	\$922,500	4		
5	\$1,190,000.00	1	5	\$1,540,000	1		
Total Average	\$850,165.85	41	Total Average	\$896,613	56		
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone							

# Questions?