



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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****MEDIA ALERT****

CITY OF CHICO AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONFERENCE MOVING FORWARD

The Chico City Council is conducting a one-day affordable housing conference on Saturday, September 28, 2019. The City Council assigned Councilors Scott Huber and Karl Ory to strategize and work with City staff to quickly develop a conference. Council Member Huber stated: “The purpose of this conference is to educate all city residents on affordable housing programs and options. It will also provide resources that people can follow-up on afterwards and organizations that they can get involved with to advocate for more affordable housing.” Additionally, Council Member Ory noted: “Chico faces a housing dilemma, with an over 20% increase in population and soaring housing costs. I hope this conference will spark ideas and highlight plans for us to move forward.” In conjunction with this effort, the City also is conducting regular meetings of a Housing Ad-Hoc Committee, which along with Huber and Ory, includes Mayor Randall Stone. Mayor Stone stated: “The exigency and essential nature of our compounded problems of housing and homelessness could not be more palatable in this disaster recovery period, but more so given the national and state housing crises. This City intends to act, and the Housing Committee’s work directs our efforts towards solutions with community input and legislative support.”

Much work has gone into assembling the speakers and panelists for this conference. The City is honored to have the conference’s opening, key note speaker be Ms. Tia Boatman-Patterson, Senior Advisor on Housing in the Office of Governor Newsom, who will highlight the Governor’s aggressive affordable housing agenda, and how it will be realized through the state budget. The lunch key note speakers will be focused on two visionary projects in the North State with affordability components, to include a multi-pronged Downtown project in Redding, being

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presented by the McConnell Foundation's Program Officer for Community Vitality, Ms. Rachel Hatch, and Chico's own Meriam Park project, being presented by Mr. Dan Gonzales, who is developing an inspired and creative new community for the North State that blends the best new urban trends with traditional neighborhood design principles. Numerous other panels will visit topics to include:

- Affordable Rental Housing Programs: What Works, What Doesn't, What do we Need More of?
- Types of Low-Income Rental Units and How to Produce More of Them.
- Affordable by Design: How to Build Housing More Affordable to Buy.
- Financing Options for Low- and Moderate-Income Buyers.

City Manager Mark Orme stated: "The City would like to thank and acknowledge our community partners who contributed towards pulling this conference together: North Valley Community Foundation, Costco, Dutch Bros Coffee and California State University, Chico. Additionally, many thanks to City staff for bringing this conference together in such short order."

Space is limited and individual registration is required. To register please visit Eventbrite at the following link. <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/city-of-chico-26453669467>

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