

2021 Statement of Priorities [Revised at 3/16/21 Workshop]

As a Council -- in all our deliberations, decisions, and as an example for our community -- we expect to keep the following three things paramount:

- A. The climate crisis is upon us and we need to prepare**
- B. Diversity, equity, and inclusion is the new norm**
- C. Fiscal responsibility is critical for future opportunities**

We expect to take and support initiatives to drive each of the following 6 priorities. This is not an ordered list.

1. Actively Address the Climate Crisis by Supporting Implementation of the *One Climate Future Plan Financially and Through Policymaking*

2. Improve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In addition to keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion paramount in everything we do, we also commit to:

- a. Continuing support for the efforts of the City's Human Rights Commission
- b. Ongoing training for City staff in areas such as bias awareness and cultural competency
- c. Diversifying committee appointments

3. Keep Housing Affordable and Available

4. Support Public Health and Human Services

5. Advocacy

We expect to improve our advocacy effectiveness at the regional, state, and national levels.

6. Maintain Fiscal Responsibility

Ancillary Goal Considerations/Ideas

1. Goal 1: Actively Address the Climate Crisis...

- a. Improve Transit

2. Goal 2: Improve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

3. Goal 3: Keep Housing Affordable and Available

Task staff and/or the Affordable Housing Committee with exploring the pros/cons of the following:

- a. Support initiatives proposed by the South Portland Housing Authority in building affordable housing, and consider affordable housing as one potential use of the soon-to-be abandoned Mahoney School
- b. Consider an Affordable Housing Zoning Overlay and other zoning/ordinance changes that promote affordable housing
- c. Consider some sort of legal regulation to hold down housing costs, such as a rent freeze
- d. Revisit “Inclusionary Zoning”, which requires developers to provide affordable housing as a percentage of all housing
 - i. According to bold guidelines
 - ii. Defining the percentage is critical
- e. Incentivize accessory dwellings such as in-law apartments/detached ADUs
- f. Mixed use in areas such as the Cash Corner area

4. Goal 4: Support Public Health and Human Services

- a. Implement Recommendations of the Police Services Review Working Group (PSRWG) and support Chief Sheehan’s efforts to collaborate with the Milestone HOME Team program
- b. Spend some of our money to help with the homeless problem, to include negotiating with area motels relative to the weekly/monthly affordable costs for extending housing to help with the homeless population, and also setting aside a certain number of motel rooms to be used as emergency housing to help prevent families/individuals from literally winding up on the street
- c. Start planning for municipal-based, low-cost internet via funding the studies necessary to ascertain the feasibility of doing so, if a partnership with a private entity to achieve a similar outcome does not come to fruition
- d. Hold a workshop to evaluate the pros/cons of requiring every employer in the community pay livable wages

5. Goal 5: Advocacy

We are specifically interested in promoting:

- a. Beneficial electrification and modernization of the grid
- b. State government owned electric utility
- c. Transit – additional funding at the state and federal levels and collaborating more at the regional level, while maintaining our own service
- d. Broadband funding
- e. Priorities included in the One Climate Future plan
- f. Improvements to air quality

6. Goal 6: Maintain Fiscal Responsibility

In addition to keeping fiscal responsibility paramount in everything we do and embedding it into all policy making, we also expect to focus on specific projects such as:

- a. Explore the creation of a grant writer position in City government
- b. Continue to explore grants and other options