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Communications Contacts

Press Releases

Media Advisories

Social Media Center

City Calendar

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2018 State of the City Address

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms Press Kit

Green-light The Gulch

City Hall Lighting Request

NYE Peach Drop

More than Mac

2019 State of the City Address

2018 Annual Report

[Government](#) » [Mayor's Office](#) » [Executive Offices](#) » [Office of Communications](#) »

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City of Atlanta Announces Housing Affordability, Racial Equity Initiative
Housing proposal outlines policy-based solutions for affordable and equitable growth
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City of Atlanta Announces Housing Affordability, Racial Equity Initiative

Housing proposal outlines policy-based solutions for affordable and equitable growth

ATLANTA—Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced the [Atlanta City Design Housing Initiative](#) which tells the story of the past, present and potential future of zoning and its impact on housing in Atlanta. The initiative is administered by the City's Department of City Planning. Atlanta City Design Housing Initiative proposes policy-based solutions to Atlanta's housing affordability challenges and aligns with the goals and action items of the Mayor's One Atlanta Housing Affordability Action Plan.

"The Atlanta City Design Housing Initiative builds on our Administration's One Atlanta Housing Affordability Action Plan, addressing systemic racism and working to ensure affordable housing for all," said Mayor Bottoms. "For too long, housing policies have excluded those who are most vulnerable, particularly communities of color. We are taking bold actions to reverse these policies and close the homeownership gap and rental affordability for legacy residents of Atlanta."

The proposals in the Atlanta City Design Housing Initiative are a result of more than two years of research and analysis aimed to specifically implement key elements related to the impact of land-use and zoning in the Mayor's action plan. Since 2010, Atlanta has increased in population every year totaling more than 84,000 new residents. The city currently has a population of just over 500,000, but as the region is expected to grow by nearly 3 million over the next several decades, the City of Atlanta's population should grow to 1.2 million. Atlanta City Design: Housing addresses the impact of significant population growth on the city's housing market.

The research and analysis of the Atlanta City Design Housing Initiative stem from the [Atlanta City Design](#). "Our city is growing, and we can leverage that growth to be a better city that is more equitable, inclusive and accessible to live in," said Tim Keane, the City of Atlanta's Commissioner of City Planning. "Atlanta City Design Housing Initiative outlines ways this growth can be designed specifically for Atlanta's landscape, distinctive physical characteristics and unique neighborhoods."

The proposed zoning policies in the analysis target structures of racism and discrimination that have limited housing affordability and exacerbated inequality in Atlanta. These policies seek to increase immediate and long-term affordability for Atlanta residents and directly address the structures of discrimination that still exist in Atlanta's zoning and land-use policies.

"Atlanta is facing rapidly rising housing costs in large part due to the exclusionary policies of the past that still exist and are impacting the city today," said Joshua Humphries, Director of the Office of Housing and Community Development in the Department of City Planning.

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