



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**MEETING DATE**

February 24, 2026

**SPONSORED BY**

Anna Callahan, City Councilor,  
Isaac Bears, Council President

**AGENDA ITEM**

**26-046** - Resolution to Support Home Sharing and Request Implementation Plan

**FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION**

WHEREAS The city of Medford and our entire region are in a housing affordability crisis, and

WHEREAS Over 65% of Medford residents are singles or couples, but less than 20% of our homes are studios or one-bedrooms, and

WHEREAS The city of Medford has a larger proportion of senior citizens than at any other time in recent memory, and many seniors would like to age in place but have concerns about continuing to upkeep their houses or performing other basic tasks, and

WHEREAS Building new housing takes time and may require zoning changes, and

WHEREAS Home Sharing has been shown in other communities to provide hundreds of units of affordable housing, keep seniors in their homes and aging in place longer, reduce loneliness for senior citizens, and increase a sense of community, all without any infrastructure changes, and

WHEREAS The city of Medford added on average only 75 new units of housing per year from 2020 to 2024, and

WHEREAS An advisor from the National Shared Housing Resource Center estimated that a city like Medford could expect to place 100 successful home shares in the first year and 500 each year after that, and

WHEREAS a home sharing program requires at least some funding/staff to run successfully, and

WHEREAS nearby towns might also benefit from a home sharing program and may be willing to share the benefits and costs of such a program,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council recognizes Home Sharing as an important cost-effective tool to increase housing availability and affordability, support aging in place, and

reduce loneliness, and expresses its intent to consider funding such a program as part of the FY27 operating budget; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council hereby requests that the Mayor, through the appropriate department(s), provide the City Council with a written response no later than **March 31, 2026** that does one of the following:

1. **Provides an implementation plan** for a Home Sharing program in Medford, which could include:
  - a proposed program model and administrative home;
  - estimated staffing and operational requirements;
  - an estimate of funding needed for FY27;
  - a proposed timeline for launch; and/or
  - identification of any opportunities for grants, partnerships, or cost-sharing with neighboring municipalities;

**OR**

2. **States that the Administration does not intend to prioritize implementation of a Home Sharing program in FY27**, with a brief explanation sufficient to inform the City Council's budget deliberations.

## RECOMMENDATION

## FISCAL IMPACT

## ATTACHMENTS

None