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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spokane REALTORS® Back Key Housing Solutions Support Mayor's Declaration of "Housing Emergency"

Spokane – Spokane REALTORS® stand with Spokane Mayor **Nadine Woodward** as she declares a "housing emergency" for the first time in Spokane history. Mayor Woodward says the declaration "sends a strong statement to the community that we do understand that this is an emergency and that we need to act quickly."

"Regional researchers, builders, and brokers have been sounding the alarm on our housing emergency for the past several years," says Tom Clark, who chairs the Governmental Affairs Committee at the Spokane Association of REALTORS®. "We're relieved our city executive and legislators now see it, too. Spokane REALTORS® are ready to bring housing solutions to the table and continue to help build Spokane's future for everyone who wants to live here."

Meanwhile, the Spokane City Council – at its' Monday meeting 7/26 – unanimously approved a Housing Action Plan that lays out four priorities: increasing the housing supply and its affordability for people of all incomes, preserving housing affordability for those who already live here, increasing access to housing and homeownership, and supporting housing initiatives across the Spokane region.

"Some of our biggest housing challenges are of our own creation," says Clark. "We make it difficult – sometimes impossible – to build what people want to buy in areas where people want to live. We pile on burdensome regulations and fees, then wonder why we have a housing crisis. All of this is fixable by our own hands."

At the same time, the National Association of REALTORS® names Spokane to the list of "cities with the most severe housing shortages," and says, "a once in a generation response is needed to address the decades of underinvestment and underbuilding in the housing market."

<https://magazine.realtor/daily-news/2021/06/16/time-to-act-the-state-of-america-s-housing-stock-is-dire>

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