

# Family Definition Review

MNAC

September 16, 2020



# Family Definition: Background

- City Council asked staff to review the Family definition, particularly the rule of three (limit of no more than 3 unrelated)
- The current definition doesn't reflect today's reality and is inconsistent with recent Federal Court decisions
- Changing demographics include:
  - Rapidly aging population
  - Fewer people getting married
  - Fewer people having kids
  - Smaller household sizes

# Family Definition: Key Principles

- Protect **health and safety**
- Accommodate the very **changed reality of “family”**
- Provide **housing choice** that is responsive to the new reality of family while considering neighborhood character
- Respect the **privacy of residents**
- Consider **legal and enforcement issues** associated with the Family definition

# Family Definition: Examples

- **Boulder, Colorado:** Cooperative Housing
- **Minneapolis, Minnesota:** Intentional Communities
- **Hartford, Connecticut:** Household Unit Definition

# Family Definition: Approaches

- **Character**
  - Focus on residential building design
- **Privacy**
  - Focus on privacy of residents by not requiring a permit or registration
- **Density**
  - Focus on limiting the number of people per room and/or requiring a minimum amount of living space per person

Which approach do you prefer?

What does success look like?

What are your concerns?

# Family Definition: Process

## **Planning Commission**

- September 17 Planning Commission work session (search for meeting packet at [meetings.cob.org](https://meetings.cob.org))
- Follow-up Planning Commission work session
- Planning Commission public hearing on draft ordinance

## **City Council**

- City Council public hearing and work sessions on draft ordinance
- City Council adoption



# Engage Bellingham

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# Thank You

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For more information, visit [www.cob.org/familydefinition](http://www.cob.org/familydefinition)

