

To: **Planning Commission**
From: **Melissa Sonnek, City Planner**
Date: **December 15, 2020**

PC Case 20-18 - Ordinance Amendment for Sections 150.036 & 153.004 Regarding the Definition of Family – City of West St. Paul

BACKGROUND:

City Council requested that Staff review and update the ordinance definition of “family” to include individuals in a domestic partnership.

Currently the Rental Dwelling Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance definition for “Family” does not include individuals in a domestic partnership. When originally established, the intent of the language was to avoid having multiple families and/or boarding house situations in single family homes. City Staff does not believe the language change to include domestic partnerships will alter the intent of the language.

Coincidentally, the City of St. Paul is also reviewing their definition of “family”. While City Staff believes the St. Paul language to be excessive in the level of specificity, information on the language has been included in the attachments as a point of reference.

ORDINANCE LANGUAGE:

FAMILY.

- 1) An individual or two or more persons legally related by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, foster care or adoption ~~in a linear relationship such as spouses, grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren and siblings, but not aunts, uncles or cousins~~; or
- 2) A group of not more than three persons not related by blood, ~~or~~ marriage, domestic partnership, foster care or adoption living together in a dwelling unit.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Planning Commission hold a public hearing, review and recommend approval of the amendment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed ordinance amendment to sections 150.036 and 153.004
City of St. Paul Presentation on Definition of “Family”

TIMELINE:

December 15, 2020: Planning Commission Review (public hearing)
January 11, 2021: City Council First Reading
January 25, 2021: City Council Final Reading (public hearing)