



THIS WEEK IN RENTON

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PRADU provides housing options
Permit Ready Accessory Dwelling Unit program

Innovative PRADU program adds housing options

The supply of housing units in Washington state, specifically in the Puget Sound region, is not meeting demand. A recent EcoNorthwest study commissioned by the Washington State Department of Commerce showed our state ranks last in the ratio of housing units to existing households.

The City of Renton is working on allowing homeowners to add housing units through our innovative [Permit Ready Accessory Dwelling Unit Program](#) (PRADU), introduced last year.

ADUs are small (400 to 1,000 square feet) independent residential units built on the same lot as a stand-alone single-family home. ADUs can be a detached structure, converted garage or accessory building.

We are not the first city to launch PRADUs, but we are the first to take two important steps to increase the pool of applicants:

- Provide free, pre-approved ADU plans allowing for an expedited review process and significant cost savings for building permit applications.
- Waive most fees associated with building permit application and review process. Impact fees for transportation, fire, parks are also waived. For ADUs built within Renton School District boundaries, school impact fees are waived.

These steps resulted from the combined effort of the mayor, city council, community and economic development department, and planning commission.

The Seattle King County REALTORS® called our PRADU program "...a model for cities throughout the central Puget Sound region."

There are eight PRADU models with 32 unique floor plans available. The models include a kitchen, sleeping area, bathroom, and choice of 1-, 2-, or 3-bedrooms. In addition, some have lofts, garages, and a second floor.

We have more information on the PRADU program [on our website](#) or by calling 425-430-7294.



Mayor Pavone testifies on police reform

The Washington state 2022 legislative session is well underway, with several key issues relevant to the City of Renton.

Over the past two weeks, Mayor Armondo Pavone has testified in support of [HB 2037](#) and [SB 5919](#) before the House Public Safety Committee and Senate Law & Justice Committee, respectively. With the recent increase in crime

and violence in the region, Mayor Pavone is urging law makers to evaluate the changes made last year.

The bills would modify procedures regarding a police officer's authority to detain or pursue individuals. Laws enacted in 2021 toughened procedures.

In his testimony, the mayor emphasized the City of Renton's support for the current laws because "they align with (Renton's) emphasis on compassionate law enforcement and low rate of use of force."

However, the mayor expressed concern to lawmakers about how the bills may limit police response. "The new laws have in some cases tipped the balance the wrong way and unfairly hamstrung our officers, replacing certainty with confusion and helpful actions with hesitation.

"I respectfully urge you to move this bill forward – thank you."

HB 2037 would modify the standard for use of force by police officers when detaining individuals attempting to leave a "Terry stop."

"Terry stops" are defined as a brief, minimally intrusive seizure of a subject-based upon articulable reasonable suspicion to investigate possible criminal activity. The stop can apply to people as well as vehicles.

Several cities and police departments across the state found the new law passed last year under HB 1310 removed an officer's ability to secure a crime scene and investigate. HB 2037 would allow officers, under the state's new restrictions, to use reasonable force to detain a person or vehicle suspected of criminal activity.

SB 5919 would provide a clear definition of what constitutes use of force. In addition, it includes language giving law enforcement authority in carrying out a warrant or court order to use force, if necessary, with a suspect attempting to flee a crime scene.



Potholes: we have responded

With the recent snow and freezing temperatures, potholes in our roads were inevitable.

Our Public Works Street Maintenance crew made pothole repair their highest priority. As soon as temperatures and conditions allowed, the crews went to work making temporary repairs. All potholes reported to them have been filled.

Temporary repair work is only possible during dry weather. This helps ensure the repairs will last until a scheduled permanent repair, usually in early spring. Permanent repairs not only require a dry day but one with a temperature of at least 50 degrees.

Street maintenance crews are in constant contact with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to report potholes on state routes. A prime example is NE Sunset Boulevard (SR 900). Pothole repairs on that route are the responsibility of WSDOT so we are dependent on their repair schedule.

Our crews ask that if you see a pothole, please report it via [Renton Responds](#) so it can be repaired.

We have more on potholes and street resurfacing [on our website](#).

In the news this week

A recap of news posted on the city's social media accounts. You can find us (@cityofrenton) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), & [Twitter](#). Renton residents can also find us on [Nextdoor](#).

[Arts Commission 2022 grant applications](#) – Deadline: Feb.16

[City Council update](#)

[COVID-19 resources](#)

[First Friday](#)

[In-person services at city hall](#)

[K-9 Xander joins RPD](#)

[Recreation Guide](#): January and February

[Renton History Museum](#)

[Renton Night Market](#): Feb. 8, 5:30 p.m.

[Traffic Projects](#)

[Winter Weather Response](#)

Youth Traffic Court