



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL  
**CENTRAL STAFF**

# **Unreinforced Masonry Building Retrofit Work Program (Resolution 32033)**

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PUBLIC SAFETY & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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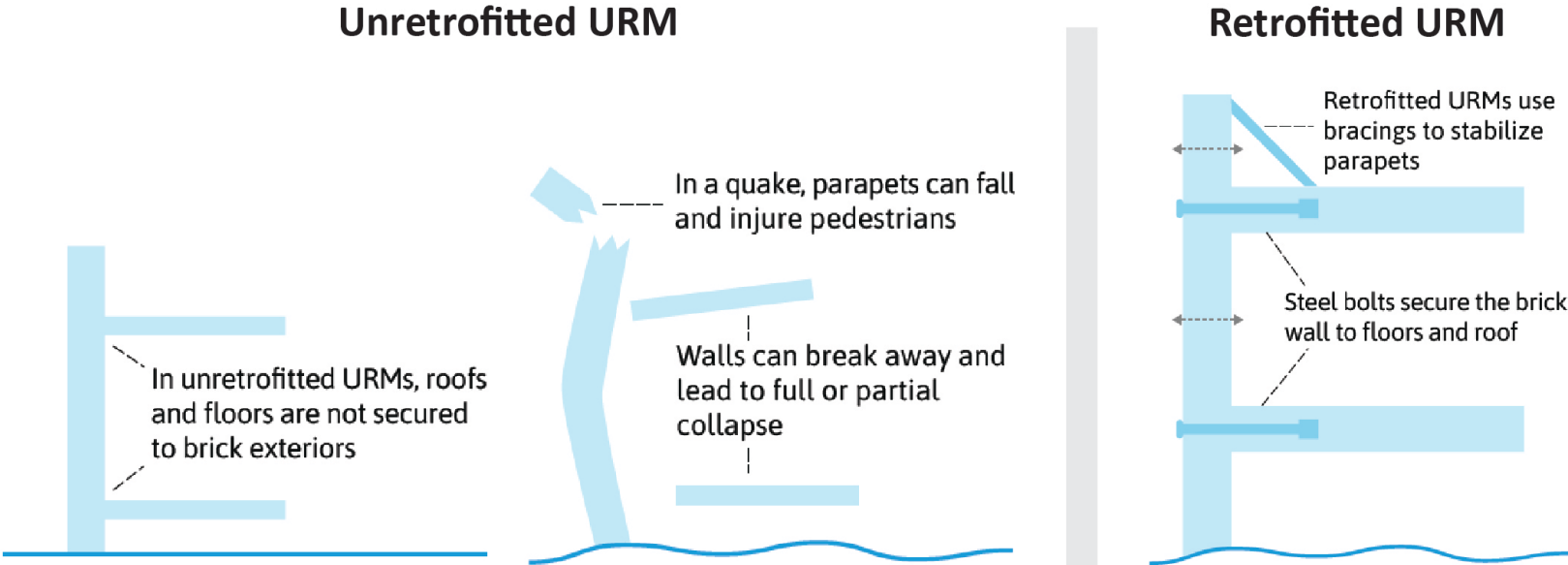
# Presentation Overview

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- Background
- Policy Development Overview
- Summary of Resolution (RES) 32033

# Background

## Potential Impacts of an earthquake on an unretrofitted unreinforced masonry building (URM) versus a retrofitted URM



Source: Funding URM Retrofits, National Development Council, 2017

# Background

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## Number of URMs by classification, September 2021

Classification	Number of URMs
<b>Critical Risk:</b> emergency service facilities and schools	75
<b>High Risk:</b> buildings over three stories in poor soil areas (i.e., liquefaction and slide areas); and buildings containing public assembly spaces with occupancies of more than 100 people	184
<b>Medium Risk:</b> all other buildings	883
<b>Total Confirmed URMs</b>	<b>1,142</b>

# Policy Development Overview

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- 1970s: Council adopts structural standard for URMs that is later repealed
- 2008: URM Technical and Policy Committees convene to propose retrofit standard and implementation program
- 2011: URM Technical Committee recommends adoption of a standard but the Policy Committee provides no recommendation
- 2012: URM Policy Committee reconvenes and issues draft recommendations
- 2013: SDCI conducts Columbia City outreach and education pilot
- 2016: SDCI completes validation of URM inventory list

# Policy Development Overview

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- 2017: URM Policy Committee releases final recommendations
- 2019: *Funding URM Retrofits* report released
- 2020: Washington State Legislature passes and the Governor signs into law House Bill 2405, establishing a voluntary commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency (C-PACER) program
- 2021: King County Council adopts framework for a C-PACER program
- 2022: New URM policy position in SDCI

# Summary of RES 32033

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Would establish goals of a phased mandatory URM retrofit program:

1. Protect life safety by reducing the risk of injury from collapse of URMs in the event of an earthquake
2. Preserve Seattle's historic and culturally significant landmarks and structures that contribute to neighborhood character
3. Improve the City's resiliency to earthquake events
4. Minimize the impact of a URM retrofit program on vulnerable populations to the extent financially feasible

# Summary of RES 32033

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Program would include:

- Definition of URMs
- Identification of the type of seismic retrofit standard required to bring URMs into compliance, depending on type of building
- Categorization system for building types and/or uses that prioritizes key buildings and services
- Timeline for compliance
- Enforcement strategy
- Variety of potential funding opportunities and financial incentives for building owners to alleviate the financial burden of required seismic retrofits for URMs



# Summary of RES 32033

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Specific actions to create the program would include:

- Funding any additional staff needed to support administration or technical review
- Evaluating City-owned URMs
- Conducting community outreach
- Coordinating and streamlining permitting for retrofits in historic districts and landmark structures
- Coordinating timing to retrofit affordable housing or emergency shelter in URMs
- Developing strategies to mitigate impacts of URM retrofits on vulnerable populations
- Collaborating with schools to develop an agreement on deadlines to retrofit URMs
- Providing coaching and resources for URM owners and residents
- Preparing a communications strategy
- Submitting legislation establishing the program to the Council
- Providing quarterly progress updates to Council, beginning on August 1, 2022

# Questions?