



# City of Mercer Island, Washington

## *Affordable Housing Week*

### *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, all people should have access to safe, healthy, and affordable homes within communities that provide opportunity. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordable housing as "housing on which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utilities". The state Department of Commerce projects that by 2044, King County needs nearly 200,000 net new housing units for households at or below 80 percent of area median income.

Studies have found that each \$100 increase in median rent results in a 15 percent increase in homelessness in metro areas and a 39 percent increase in homelessness in nearby suburbs and rural areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many existing financial constraints for low- and moderate-income households. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognize safe, healthy, and affordable housing within communities of opportunity as key social determinants of health.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing, including the people who reside in these properties, their neighbors, businesses, employers, and the community as a whole.

United to raise public awareness, people, organizations, and communities throughout King County are participating in local Affordable Housing Week activities to elevate the critical need to create healthy communities with ample affordable housing.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim May 13-17, 2024, as

## **Affordable Housing Week**

**APPROVED**, this 7th day of May 2024

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Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 328

