



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6703
June 3, 2025
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6703: Councilmember Appointment to ARCH Focus Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Appoint a Councilmember to attend the ARCH Focus Group meeting on June 11, 2025.	

DEPARTMENT:	Community Planning and Development
STAFF:	Jeff Thomas, Community Planning and Development Director Alison Van Gorp, Community Planning and Development Deputy Director
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Focus Group Questionnaire and ARCH Information
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to appoint a Councilmember to attend the ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) Focus Group meeting on June 11, 2025 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

BACKGROUND

ARCH was established in 1993 by an Interlocal Agreement to create and preserve affordable housing throughout the greater East King County community. Member jurisdictions include Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Bothell, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, King County, Kirkland, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Redmond, Sammamish, Woodinville, and Yarrow Point. By participating in ARCH, member cities are part of a joint and cooperative undertaking to collectively plan for and provide affordable housing in East King County communities. ARCH staff serve as additional housing staff to each member city and coordinate with member city staff in various housing-related projects, plans and services.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

In 2024, ARCH adopted a [Strategic Plan](#) that included a goal to improve ARCH’s organizational and governance structure to better serve ARCH’s mission and to re-consider the role of elected officials.

ARCH has requested the Mercer Island City Council’s participation in the ARCH Organizational and Governance Study that is being conducted by the [Alford Group](#). The Governance Study will provide findings and recommendations on the following:

- determine the optimal legal structure, responsibilities and authority to effectively carry out ARCH’s mission
- enhance board effectiveness
- confirm structures and internal systems to help ARCH achieve its goal of building more affordable housing faster.

The purpose of the Focus Group is to provide elected officials with the opportunity to share feedback about strengths and weaknesses of ARCH’s current structure. Participants will have the opportunity to share their perceptions of ARCH, the current internal governance and structure as well as other insights they may have. City staff will also be participating in a similar session aimed at staff feedback. Exhibit 1 includes the questions that will be asked of focus group participants as well as a summary of the current ARCH organizational structure.

The Focus Group is a 90-minute virtual meeting on Wednesday, June 11 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. The City Council may choose to appoint one or more Councilmember(s) to attend the Focus Group and provide feedback about ARCH.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Appoint Councilmember _____ to attend the ARCH Focus Group on June 11, 2025.