



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

**AB 6261
May 2, 2023
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6261: Affordable Housing Week (Proclamation No. 306)	<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:	Approve Proclamation No. 306 proclaiming the week of May 7 to 13, 2023 as Affordable Housing Week.	

DEPARTMENT:	Community Planning and Development
STAFF:	Salim Nice, Mayor Alison Van Gorp, Deputy CPD Director
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 306
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 proclaim May 7-13, 2023 as Affordable Housing Week in Mercer Island.

- Homelessness remains a major challenge in King County and current economic conditions continue to put pressure on low- and middle-income households in our region.
- Significant investments in building, preserving, and subsidizing new affordable homes are needed.
- The Growth Management Act now requires cities like Mercer Island to plan to accommodate projected housing needs as a part of the 2024 periodic update of comprehensive plans.
- In addition to planning for housing, the City also contributes to affordable housing development and preservation as a member of ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing).
- Proclaiming May 7-13 as Affordable Housing Week in Mercer Island shines a light on both the substantial need for more affordable housing in King County, as well as the important work already underway to understand and address that need.

BACKGROUND

Homelessness remains one of the most difficult and complex issues facing King County. The King County Regional Homelessness Authority estimates that more than 53,000 people experienced homelessness in King County in 2022, up from 40,000 people in 2020. The impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic continue to exacerbate the challenges low- and middle- income people face in the region. Market rents surged more than

15% last year in East King County. Furthermore, the high rates of inflation and increases in costs of goods and services mean that family budgets are stretched.

King County currently faces a shortfall of 149,000 affordable homes. That number is expected to grow to 212,000 homes by 2044.

In 2022, the City completed a Housing Needs Assessment to understand Mercer Island's existing and future housing needs and to inform the 2024 periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan. City staff continue to coordinate with other East King County jurisdictions to address affordable housing needs through ARCH, including annual investments in the ARCH Housing Trust Fund, which has helped create over 7,000 units of affordable housing in East King County.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Since 2016, the [Housing Development Consortium](#) (HDC) of Seattle-King County has partnered with its diverse membership body to coordinate Affordable Housing Week, aimed at recognizing the need to preserve and increase affordable housing in King County communities. HDC's members encompass all major nonprofit housing developers in King County as well as financial institutions, consultants, architects, building contractors, attorneys, accountants, service providers, local housing authorities, and government agencies.

Each year, Affordable Housing Week brings together residents from across King County to focus attention on affordable housing and to promote thriving communities where everyone has an opportunity to live with dignity in safe, healthy, and affordable homes. Affordable Housing Week activities are attended and led by cities, organizations, advocates, and residents.

Proclaiming May 7-13 as Affordable Housing Week in Mercer Island shines a light on both the need for more affordable housing in King County, as well as the important work already underway to understand and address that need. For more information on affordable housing in King County and to learn about the events and activities planned for May 7-13, visit the [Affordable Housing Week webpage](#).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 306 proclaiming May 7 to 13, 2023, as Affordable Housing Week in Mercer Island.