



City of Mercer Island, Washington *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, all people should have access to safe, healthy, and affordable homes within communities that provide opportunity.

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 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 WA State Department of Commerce projects that by 2044, King County needs nearly 200,000 net new housing units for households at or below 80% area median income. Studies have also shown that each \$100 increase in median rent results in a 15% increase in homelessness in metro areas and a 39% 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. Additionally, the CDC recognizes safe, healthy, and affordable housing within communities of opportunity as key social determinants of health.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing, including residents, neighbors, businesses, and employers. Recognizing this, people, organizations, and communities throughout King County are united to raise public awareness and are participating in local Affordable Housing Week activities to elevate the critical need to create healthy communities with ample affordable housing.

The City of Mercer Island endorses the goals, objectives, and purposes of Affordable Housing Week, and firmly recommits itself to ensuring that our community’s recovery from the crises at hand is equitable, and that all people in Mercer Island live with dignity in safe, healthy, and affordable homes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim the week of May 7 to 13, 2023, as:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK

APPROVED, this 2nd day of May, 2023

Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 306

