



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

**AB 6069  
May 3, 2022  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6069: Affordable Housing Week (Proclamation No. 289)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Proclaim May 8-14, 2022 as Affordable Housing Week.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council
<b>STAFF:</b>	Salim Nice, Mayor Alison Van Gorp, Deputy CPD Director Andrea Larson, City Clerk
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 289
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This agenda bill is to Proclaim May 8-14, 2022 as Affordable Housing Week in Mercer Island.

**BACKGROUND**

Homelessness remains one of the most difficult and complex issues facing King County. The King County Regional Homelessness Authority estimates that more than 40,000 people were homeless in King County in 2020. In addition, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to exacerbate the challenges low- and middle- income people face in our region. Market rents have surged 15% in the last year in East King County. Furthermore, the current high rates of inflation as well as the historically high gas prices mean that family budgets are stretched extremely thin.

In 2018, King County estimated that a total of 244,000 net new affordable homes must be built, preserved, or subsidized by 2040 to fully address the need for affordable homes countywide. The state legislature has acted to require cities and counties to plan for projected housing needs as a part of the Growth Management Act comprehensive planning process. The City will soon embark on 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 (A Regional Coalition for Housing), 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 encompasses all of the 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 8-14 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. For more information on affordable housing in King County and to learn about the events and activities planned for May 8-14, please visit the [Affordable Housing Week webpage](#).

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Proclaim May 8 – 14, 2022 as Affordable Housing Week.