



# BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

**AB 6126**  
**July 19, 2022**  
**Regular Business**

## AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6126: ARCH Revenue Options Focus Group Delegates	<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>	Appoint up to two Councilmembers to join the ARCH Revenue Options Focus Group.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Community Planning and Development
<b>STAFF:</b>	Alison Van Gorp, Deputy CPD Director
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	n/a
<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

The purpose of this agenda bill is to appoint up to two City Council delegates to serve on the ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) Revenue Options Focus Group.

## BACKGROUND

[ARCH](#) is a partnership of King County and East King County Cities working to preserve and increase the supply of housing for low- and moderate-income households in the region. ARCH was created by interlocal agreement in 1992 and the City of Mercer Island has been a member since 1993.

ARCH supports its members to develop housing policies, strategies and regulations; efficiently administer housing programs; coordinate city investments in affordable housing; and assist people looking for affordable rental and ownership housing.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Each year, the ARCH Housing Trust Fund solicits proposals and funds local affordable housing development projects. This year, the potential interest in the upcoming 2023 funding round is immense. Total potential capital requests could be in excess of \$28 million, for projects that would create 1,700 affordable units. This

will far outstrip the funding available – the Housing Trust Fund typically is able to provide about \$3 to \$5 million in funding allocations each year.

Since 2007, ARCH’s work program has included exploration of a dedicated funding source to support affordable housing. In light of the growing pressure to increase production of affordable housing, together with the potential pipeline of projects to invest in, ARCH staff believe that a renewed discussion of dedicated revenue sources is urgently needed.

ARCH is convening a focus group composed of council members from each member jurisdiction to solicit input on potential new revenue options. ARCH is asking each member jurisdiction to identify up to two Council members to join the focus group. The focus group meetings will be scheduled based on the availability of the membership; ARCH would like to schedule one meeting this summer and likely another in the fall. Due to the difficulty of scheduling this type of meeting during the summer, the Council should identify 2 delegates plus an alternate. If either of the 2 delegates is not able to attend a meeting, the alternate would attend in their place. This feedback from the focus group will be used to further develop one or more proposed revenue options that the ARCH Executive Board will consider recommending to member jurisdictions to collectively advocate for as a part of each jurisdictions’ upcoming state legislative agenda.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Appoint Councilmember(s) \_\_\_\_\_ as members of the ARCH Revenue Options Focus Group.