

**For Immediate Release** — June 15, 2006

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## **City and County Host Affordable Housing Public Open House**

**Port Townsend, WA**—Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend will be hosting a public Open House to review and comment on a variety of affordable housing strategies that may be implemented within the City and East Jefferson County. The Open House will be on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. in the Jefferson County Library at 620 Cedar Avenue, Port Hadlock.

The two governmental agencies have partnered to conduct a Housing Needs Assessment, along with Beckwith Consulting Group, to develop strategies that can potentially be implemented by the two governments, local housing providers, non-profits and private entities.

“We have been working closely with a Housing Needs Assessment Advisory Group over the past several months to help us determine housing/employment activity and capacity as well as conducting surveys with builders, brokers, lenders and sponsor groups,” said Brent Butler, Jefferson County Long Range Planner and the project lead for the County. “We also held a series of public meetings to gather input from citizens during the month of May.”

The Open House gives the public an opportunity to be brought up-to-date on the various issues pertaining to Affordable Housing and what’s been considered so far by the Advisory Group, as well as comments gained from citizens during the public meetings held in May.

“Ultimately, our goal is to develop an Action Plan Work Program that will help the public, non-profit and private entities to improve the availability of affordable housing in our area,” said Judy Surber, Senior Planner for the City of Port Townsend and the project lead for the City.

With input assembled from all aspects of the community concerned with affordable housing needs, the consulting firm and the community-based advisory group will present an action plan to the Planning Commissions, City Council and Board of County Commissioners for their adoption by late summer 2006.

For additional information, please go to the County’s Web site at [www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/housing.htm](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/housing.htm) or contact Judy Surber at 379-5084 or Brent Butler at 379-4464.

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