

**For Immediate Release** — March 17, 2006

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### **City and County Host Housing Action Plan Charrette**

**Port Townsend, WA**—Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend are hosting a Housing Action Plan Charrette to assist in identifying barrier to affordable housing and to brainstorm possible solutions. The public is invited and encouraged to attend on Wednesday, March 29, 2006 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Port Townsend Community Center at 620 Tyler Street (Uptown).

“Ultimately, our goal is to develop an Action Plan Work Program that will help public, non-profit and private organizations implement strategies to improve the availability of affordable housing,” said Judy Surber, Senior Planner for the City of Port Townsend. “Information we gather from the workshop will be folded into the City and County’s Housing Needs Assessment Study.”

A consultant will provide facilitation, encouraging participants to:

- Identify apparent problems and opportunities
- Brainstorm possible solutions
- Help to design potential plans and programs
- Evaluate each proposal listing negative and positive features
- Participate in a poll to determine level of support for each proposal

*All interested parties are welcome* to attend including interested builders, brokers, lenders, sponsors, and other interested parties. Interested parties must RSVP to Judy Surber at 360.379.5084 by March 24<sup>th</sup> to be included in the workshop. Participants will be included on a first-come-first-serve basis until meeting capacity is reached. RSVP’d participants will be mailed background materials and other information of interest in order to prepare to participate in the charrette.

The City and County will also sponsor a series of public outreach meetings from 6 to 8 p.m. in Quilcene/Brinnon on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Port Ludlow on April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Tri-Area on April 26<sup>th</sup> and in Port Townsend on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Locations and addresses are available on the City’s Web site at [www.ci.port-townsend.wa.us](http://www.ci.port-townsend.wa.us).

The City of Port Townsend and Jefferson County have partnered to conduct a Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment for East Jefferson County. Having received a Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development, the City/County retained Beckwith Consulting Group to spearhead the project. For more information, contact Judy Surber at 379.5084 or via email at [jsurber@ci.port-townsend.wa.us](mailto:jsurber@ci.port-townsend.wa.us).

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