

**For Immediate Release** — July 13, 2006

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## **City and County Offer Joint Workshops on Affordable Housing**

**Port Townsend, WA**—Housing prices in our community are continually climbing out of reach. The City of Port Townsend and Jefferson County are looking into solutions for the problem. With that in mind, the public is invited to attend a joint workshop to learn about efforts to address affordable housing needs.

“Our two governmental agencies have partnered to develop a plan of action to help the public, non-profit and private groups implement strategies to improve the availability of affordable housing for the workforce,” said Judy Surber, Senior Planner for the City of Port Townsend and the project lead for the City.

Tom Beckwith of Beckwith Consulting Group, retained by the City and County to spearhead the project, will give an update on the progress of the Housing Needs Assessment and the efforts of the Housing Needs Advisory group at a joint workshop before the Port Townsend City Council and City Planning Commission on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Port Townsend Fire Hall, 701 Harrison Street.

Beckwith will also make a similar presentation at the regularly scheduled Jefferson County Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the WSU Community Learning Center at Shold Business Park in Port Hadlock.

The consulting firm and Housing Needs Advisory Group, a community-based ad-hoc committee, will present the action plan to the City Council and Board of County Commissioners for their adoption later in August.

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 via e-mail at [jsurber@cityofpt.us](mailto:jsurber@cityofpt.us) or Brent Butler at 379-4464 or via e-mail at [bbutler@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:bbutler@co.jefferson.wa.us).

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