

**For Immediate Release** — May 12, 2006

Contact: Brent Butler  
Long Range Planning, Department of Community Development  
Jefferson County  
(360) 379-4464 or [bbutler@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:bbutler@co.jefferson.wa.us)

## **City and County Host Housing Needs Assessment Public Meetings**

**Port Townsend, WA**—The City of Port Townsend and Jefferson County have partnered to host a series of public meetings to discuss Affordable Housing in Jefferson County.

The first meeting will be Monday, May 15 at the Brinnon Community Center, 306144 Hwy. 101. All meetings will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, the meeting will be held at the Port Ludlow Bay Club in the classroom, 120 Spinnaker Place. Wednesday, May 17 will be at the Tri-Area Community Center at 10 West Valley Road and Thursday, May 18 will be at the Port Townsend Fire Hall on the corner of Lawrence and Garrison.

“We will be sharing information about affordable housing, describing your area demographics and showing how it differs from other areas within the County,” said Brent Butler, Long-Range Planner for Jefferson County’s Department of Community Development and the County’s lead on the project. “We will also be asking the public to help us identify barriers to home ownership and affordable rents for neighbors, including the elderly, families and the disabled. We welcome everyone to attend.”

Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend will use this information to develop a plan of action to help public, non-profit and private groups implement strategies to improve the availability of affordable housing for the workforce. 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.

With input assembled from all aspects of the community concerned with affordable housing needs, the consulting firm and 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 more information about the Housing Needs Assessment, 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 Brent Butler at [bbutler@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:bbutler@co.jefferson.wa.us) or at 379.4464.

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