

For Immediate Release — September 22, 2006

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Affordable Housing Action Plan Public Hearings

Port Townsend, WA—Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend have partnered to conduct a **Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan**. The purpose of this report is two-fold, first to document housing needs in East Jefferson County, and second, to identify strategies for tackling housing needs. Two open-record public hearings are scheduled in October. The first is Monday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. with the Port Townsend City Council in the City of Port Townsend Fire Hall. The second is with the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on October 9, at 10:45 a.m. in the BoCC Chambers in the basement of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

“We’re encouraging everyone who is interested in affordable housing to testify regarding the Housing Needs and Action Plan, either by submitting oral testimony at either of the above mentioned public hearings, or by submitting written comments to the City Clerk at 250 Madison Street, Ste. 2 in Port Townsend,” said Judy Surber, “Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2006.”

Action items in the plan are aimed principally at benefiting low- and moderate-income people. For eight months, the Housing Advisory Group, appointed by the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners and Port Townsend City Council, worked with a consultant, and city and county staff to develop the plan funded in part by a Community Development Block Grant. The consultant conducted focus group interviews with realtors, lenders, builders, and housing providers. Community input was gathered via public open house meetings and phone surveys.

Tom Beckwith of Beckwith Consulting will also make a presentation to the Jefferson County Planning Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Spruce Room at WSU’s Shold Business Park in Port Hadlock. Beckwith Consulting prepared the Housing Action Plan so this is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the document.

A copy of the Housing Action Plan to be considered by the BoCC and City Council will be available for public review at:

City of Port Townsend Planning Department
250 Madison Street, Suite 3
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Jefferson County Department of Community Development
621 Sheridan Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Documents will also be posted on the County website at: www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/housing.htm. For more information, contact Judy Surber at 379.5084 or via email at jsturber@ci.port-townsend.wa.us or Brent Butler at 379.4464 or via email at bbutler@co.jefferson.wa.us.

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