

Dear Friends,

It has been a few weeks since I last shared an update with you regarding the status of the 550 Madison Avenue property. Below is a summary of our actions since the last Housing Kitsap meeting that we hope will provide a useful summary to the community. As always we are so grateful to all of you for your support and we will be in touch soon.



With gratitude,

*Phedra Elliott*

### **Background**

Many in our community responded to HRB's call to action regarding the sale of 550 Madison two weeks ago. The current residents advocated for themselves and many have rallied behind them. At HRB, we were also heartened to see so much community support for retaining the affordable units for our neighbors. As you may know, the Housing Kitsap Board delayed their decision regarding the sale of 550 Madison, in part to update the loan agreement with Kitsap County, and in part to give HRB and the City of Bainbridge Island the opportunity to raise additional funds for the property sale.

Following the meeting, Madison Ave Development (Mike Burns) withdrew their offer for the property. The remaining offers, including HRB's, have also expired. HRB did receive a copy of the building inspection report that shed light on the current condition of the property.

### **What is currently happening**

Over the last two weeks, the HRB Board and Staff have been working to determine a way forward. We have been in conversation with Madison Ave Development and have learned that they have an interest in developing the property – in addition to the adjacent site already owned by their group. Madison Ave Development also has an interest in retaining the units of affordable housing within that development. HRB is collaborating with Madison Ave to determine how we can work together to realize a larger vision: a mixed income community that includes at least 13 units of housing affordable for low-income residents.

We feel that a partnership with Madison Ave Development is the best path forward for all because it will:

- Protect the current residents at 550 Madison in the short- and long-term
- Provide much needed units of housing - both affordable and market-rate

HRB and Madison Ave Development are moving ahead together with a spirit of cooperation and in good faith. Many details still need to be worked out with many questions unanswered. Putting together a housing development and creating a partnership to do this is neither an easy nor quick task. However, we do intend to meet the deadline of July 23<sup>rd</sup> when the Board of Housing Kitsap next meets.

At HRB, our primary concern is for the current residents of 550 Madison. We know how difficult it is to live with the uncertainty and fear of displacement. However, as the

agreement between HRB and Madison Ave Development takes shape we can only share so much. It is our intention though to continue to update the residents and Bainbridge Island community, and as soon as we have additional information we will disseminate it to our friends and supporters. I have also shared a copy of this letter with each of the residents of 550 Madison so that they are aware of HRB's efforts.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge our deep appreciation for the offers of monetary support from the community for 550 Madison. As I noted in a previous email, we are not yet ready to take restricted donations for the project. But, as soon as we are, we will announce it loud and clear and give instructions about how you can give. In the meantime, we are happy to accept unrestricted donations to support our ongoing work on Bainbridge Island. You may donate through our [website](#), send a check to our PO Box (PO Box 11391, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110), or donate to us through [One Call For All](#).

We hope this update has been helpful and we thank you for your patience and support as we move forward.