

ADVOCACY ALERT

Action

Planning Commission will continue work on the draft ordinance for the affordable housing development proposed by Bethany Lutheran Church this Thursday, March 10. This will be a public hearing, and we urge you to submit letters at pcd@bainbridgewa.gov and/or speak in support of the project. The meeting agenda, Zoom access, draft ordinance, and instructions for making public comment can be found [here](#).

In accordance with state law RCW 36.70A.545, Bethany Lutheran requested an increased density bonus for the construction of affordable housing on its land. The city voted to implement the request using the church as a pilot project and is in the process of finalizing the ordinance.

HRB and Bethany Lutheran are in favor of the density bonus formula prescribed in the ordinance which would yield a total of 21 units on the 8-acre property. We are concerned, however, that the current ordinance places impractical conditions on the project. These requirements, regarding income eligibility, ratio of rental units to ownership units, and rent criteria, jeopardize the funding and viability of the project.

Please let Planning Commission know that you support Bethany Lutheran Church in their effort to build affordable housing. Let them know that you want to see a streamlined ordinance that will create a functional and sustainable development as quickly and effectively as possible. The church requested the density bonus in May 2021. After almost a year of careful study, let's get this project built.



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