

## ADVOCACY ALERT

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### Update

This Tuesday, July 26, City Council will discuss a request by Bethany Lutheran Church for an increased density bonus to build affordable housing on its property. The request is justified by a state law that permits such a bonus for religious organizations seeking to build affordable housing on their land. Council is expected to 1) determine how many units can be built on the property, and 2) decide what kind of ordinance to write, one that will allow these homes to be built as a pilot project or one that can be applied to religious organizations island wide.

### Action

Tuesday's meeting is a business meeting, not a public hearing. In this situation, the community can give public comment at the start of the meeting but not during discussion of the agenda items. Please consider offering comment or writing to **Council. Let them know you support affordable housing and urge them to move forward with an ordinance for Bethany Lutheran Church.**

*Even if you have written to Council or Planning Commission in support of this project in the past, please write again. It is important for your voice to be heard multiple times.*

### Key points to include in your email to Council

- I enthusiastically support this project: Like other members of the community, I have long been concerned with the state of housing on the island. I see how the lack of affordable housing harms our community, and I want to see these homes built.
- Twenty-one units is appropriate: The church has demonstrated that the land and infrastructure can support this size development. Furthermore, it is compatible with near-by neighborhoods.
- Do not delay: Given the rising cost of construction, any unnecessary delay does a disservice to the project.

**LETTER-WRITING HELP**

The process has been long, but we are making good progress. HRB and Bethany Lutheran Church are indebted to you for your vocal and informed support for affordable housing on Bainbridge Island.

### Meeting details

City Council  
Tuesday, July 26, 2022  
6:00 pm

You can find the meeting link [here](#).

For more information, see the meeting agenda packet [here](#).



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