

ADVOCACY ALERT

Update

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, City Council will review a revised ordinance that would grant Bethany Lutheran Church an increased density bonus to develop affordable housing on its land. Such a bonus is supported by state law RCW 36.70A.545 and extends to all religious organizations.

After lengthy deliberation first by Planning Commission and then by City Council, city planning staff are working on an ordinance. The current and previous iterations attempt to devise a method for calculating the density bonus. The first gave two options: a bonus based on proximity to designated centers, which are zoned for higher density, and an alternate numeric maximum. The second, which will be discussed tomorrow, uses base density to calculate the bonus. Council will also continue discussion on how to apply the ordinance—as a pilot or island wide. For more information, read the staff memo [here](#).

The housing at Bethany Lutheran Church is not an HRB project. However, we are actively supporting its efforts and encouraging our supporters to do the same. The project is a careful, innovative, and honest response to the lack of affordable housing on Bainbridge Island.

Action

This is a study session (a public hearing is planned for September). In this situation, the public is welcome to offer public comment at the start of the meeting but not during the agenda item. 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**.

There is no limit to the number of letters a resident can write. Each is received as a demonstration of support. Please keep up this tremendous work.

Key points to include in your email to Council

- I support the proposed project at Bethany Lutheran: This is an innovative project that will help meet the island's need for affordable homes.
- Please grant a density bonus that will allow the church to build something that is financially viable and makes maximum use of its land and septic capacity.
- I want to see more affordable housing on Bainbridge. The health of our community is at stake.

[LETTER-WRITING HELP](#)

Meeting details

City Council
Tuesday, August 16, 2022
6:00 pm

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

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



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