

## Housing Resources Bainbridge

# ADVOCACY ALERT

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### Update

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, City Council will review Resolution 2023-06 which establishes a program to subsidize land use permit fees for affordable housing developers. The program will be supported by the City Housing Trust Fund. Covered fees include site plan and design review, long subdivision, and conditional use permits.

The program uses a tiered approach: Developments with more affordable units are eligible for more subsidy. Likewise, developments that serve households earning 50% area median income and below are eligible for more subsidy than those serving households earning 80% and below. Subsidies range from 10% - 75% and are available by application.

### Why this matters to HRB

Fee reduction for affordable housing development was recommended in the 2023 Housing Action Plan and cited as a “quick win” in the 2018 Affordable Housing Task Force Final Report. It is an effective and relatively easy way for the city to provide immediate and direct aid to affordable housing providers like HRB.

HRB is developing an 18-unit multifamily residence at the corner of Ericksen Avenue and Knechtel Way. As a 100% affordable development serving households at 50% AMI and below, the Ericksen project qualifies for the highest-tier subsidy of 75%.

Our site plan review is estimated to cost \$17,530. In its current form, this program would reduce that fee to \$4,383 for a savings of over \$13,000. However, this is just one of many infrastructure and administrative fees involved in the construction of Ericksen, so that even with the subsidy, we expect to pay the city roughly \$220,000 for the building permit, traffic impact fee, sewer connection, and other services. A nonprofit like HRB, building a 100% affordable development, is an especially valuable partner in the city's efforts to address the island's affordable housing crisis. We believe that the city should do more to reduce this cost burden for 100% affordable developments such as Ericksen.

### Action

Please email [City Council](#) or deliver [public comment](#) at the start of the meeting, urging councilors to expand upon Resolution 2023-06.

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

- Resolution 2023-06 is an opportunity for the city to make good on its commitment to affordable housing.

- The current draft is a good start, but it doesn't go far enough. To increase its impact, please include more fees.

### Meeting details

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Council Chambers City Hall

280 Madison Avenue North

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Zoom: <https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/92947338351>

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

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