

From: [Catherine Freudenberg](#)
To: [PCD](#)
Subject: Approve Wintergreen Townhomes
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It's time to move the Wintergreen Townhome project forward. In fact, it's long past the time to move it forward. There is a serious lack of affordable housing in the community. Even people working fulltime can't afford to live here but it's not just the workers. Housing affordability affects the entire community. It drives up the costs of goods and services. Businesses struggle to retain and attract employees. Teachers, first responders and even City employees struggle to live in the communities they serve. Young families can't afford to live here, so school enrollment declines and that affects school funding and programs. Seniors struggle with rising costs - how many can live on their social security? So, the question is are we going to continue to admire the problem or are we going to start taking steps to fix it?

There's another side to this issue though. It's how diversity enriches the community. I'm a Bainbridge Island graduate. My first jobs were on the Island. Finding an apartment or small house to rent wasn't unattainable back then. People that worked in the community, mostly lived in the community. I think we can agree that things are much different today; heck, much of the multifamily costs as much as a single-family home. The result is that the housing needs gap has grown. It's time to stop kicking the can down the road and actually address the gaps.

Will some people be unhappy? Most definitely. They were unhappy when Safeway and McDonalds came to town. It isn't the job of the Planning Commission or the City Council to pander to any faction on the Island. It is your job to serve the needs of the community, ALL of the community. It is your job to uphold the current Comprehensive Plan. Let's stop admiring and talking about the problem and actually take a step towards fixing it, please.

Sincerely,

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