

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**NO EMBARGO:** February 20, 2026

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### **MEDIA ALERT:**

**On Friday, February 20, 2026, Affordable Hometown Port Townsend and four local residents filed a petition for review with the State’s Growth Management Hearings Board seeking to invalidate Port Townsend’s Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Changes, adopted on December 15, 2025, for failing to comply with the goals and requirements of the Growth Management Act and remand the matter back to the City for action compliant with the Growth Management Act.**

*Port Townsend Residents Seek Concrete Affordable Housing Plans and Gentrification Protections Missing from the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Changes.*

PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON —

On February 20, 2026, Affordable Hometown Port Townsend (AHPT), John Watts, Mary McCurdy, Todd McGuire and John Capps have filed a petition for review with the Washington Growth Management Hearings Board seeking to invalidate Port Townsend’s Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Changes for failing to comply with the Growth Management Act.

According to John Watts, President of AHPT, “the record shows that people overwhelmingly wanted affordable housing measures and gentrification protections in the Port Townsend Comprehensive Plan, but the City Council chose to pass a Plan lacking any of these measures and protections. An appeal is the process the state legislature established to remedy these deficiencies, and we hope we can come to a quick resolution with the City that will eliminate the need for further litigation.”

In addition to Affordable Housing and Gentrification Protections, the appeal also challenges the City of Port Townsend’s failure to:

- Establish affordable housing goals and policies for each income level.
- Address housing stock destruction and the displacement impact of the City’s housing policies.

- Properly assess the racially disparate impact of past and future City housing policies.
- Demonstrate financial feasibility and funding sources for infrastructure needed to serve forecasted growth.
- Ensure that level of service standard amendments were made concurrent with strategies to accommodate the impacts of development.
- Ensure that public facilities and services will be adequate to support development at the time development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing levels of service below the minimum standards.

The Petition for Appeal is attached.

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*Affordable Hometown Port Townsend is a Washington non-profit organization that works to support the growth of affordable, workforce and middle-income housing while minimizing negative impacts on existing Port Townsend neighborhoods.*

*AHPT supports increased housing density that goes hand in hand with affordable housing requirements, anti-displacement measures and the availability of adequate infrastructure.*

*[www.AffordableHometownPT.org](http://www.AffordableHometownPT.org)*