



# Press Release

## CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

September 28, 2006

### **Mountlake Terrace Planning Commission Recommends Changes to Residential Code**

New standards for cottage housing, mother-in-law apartments, and multi-family development were recommended by the Mountlake Terrace Planning Commission at a public hearing September 25.

"We want to keep our single family neighborhoods and allow some opportunities for creativity," said Commissioner John Olsen.

The standards would allow cottage housing that has up to 925 square feet of living space on the first floor and is no more than two stories tall. Cottages could be built in clusters of 4-12 homes. A cluster of four would require at least two standard size residential lots put together. Additional cottages would require more land.

"Mother-in-law" apartments – small living spaces that are part of the main home or separate – would be allowed if they met certain requirements. They cannot be bigger than 40% of the main home's size or 800 square feet, whichever is less.

New multi-family development would be required to meet design standards that include architectural features, landscaping, recreating, and parking. New multi-

family buildings could occupy more space on the lot than single-family homes but could not be taller than the 3 stories allowed for single-family residences.

Other recommended zoning amendments include minor site design changes, such as allowing backyard setbacks to be reduced to 15 feet in RS 7200 zones and 20 feet in RS 8400 zones.

The Planning Commission's recommendations will be initially reviewed by the City Council at a work session October 12. A public hearing will follow on October 16, 7:00 p.m, at City Hall. Comments can be given at the hearing or submitted ahead in writing to the Planning Department at Mountlake Terrace City Hall or by email to [drubatino@ci.mlt.wa.us](mailto:drubatino@ci.mlt.wa.us).

For more information, see the Breaking News section of the City's website at [www.cityofmlt.com](http://www.cityofmlt.com) or call 425.744.6266.

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