



## CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 26, 2010

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### **City Council Declares Mobile Home Shares Surplus**

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, August 26, 2010 – The City Council last night approved a Resolution declaring seven City-owned shares of the Islander Mobile Home Park surplus, and authorizing the sale of the shares. The decision will not impact current residents of the homes, as the shares will be sold only as they become available, according to Resolution No. 2010-24, which passed with unanimous approval.

The Council also directed the Administration to begin seeking a buyer for one share which is currently vacant.

The City became involved in ownership of the park when its previous owner put it on the market in 2003. The City played a leadership role in efforts to preserve the affordable housing offered at the park and avoid disruption of its established community of residents. After extensive negotiations, and with the support of several organizations and individuals, these efforts resulted in success in 2004. The City purchased seven shares in the park, assisted in the preparation of legal documents and entered into a 50-year covenant related to the preservation of the park.

Earlier this year, the City Council asked the administration to evaluate whether the City should consider divesting itself of its ownership share. At a Council Study Session in April, the administration reported that the City's ownership did not appear to be financially sustainable, and recommended that the City relinquish its ownership interest given that the original goal of preserving the property had been achieved.

City staff and the staff of the Housing Resources Board, which has managed the City owned shares since their purchase, have been working with mobile home park residents for the past several months to prepare them for the City's decision.

“The Islander offers a home to a well-established, close-knit community right in the heart of our downtown,” said Director of Planning and Community Development Kathy Cook. “The City's participation helped preserve this community, fulfilling goals and policies in our Comprehensive Plan aimed at preserving the park as a source of diverse housing downtown.”

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