

## APPENDIX C

### Public Comment Correspondence

April 19, 2012

Dear County Council,

On Friday, February 10, 2012, we received the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) scoring that our program Volunteers of America Rental Housing Mediation Services would not receive funding from Snohomish County CDBG for the first time in 30 years. We appreciate the hard work of the TAC but ask that the County Council reconsider the drastic and sudden elimination of funding to Rental Housing Mediation Services.

Our Rental Housing Mediation Services program has been funded by Snohomish County CDBG and serving the community for 30 years. During these past 3 decades we receive approximately 1450 calls a year from landlords and tenants in Snohomish County, the majority of which are low income.

**We have been a crucial part of Snohomish County's 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan Objective PSO-4 which states, "Provide information on landlord/tenant and fair housing laws, conciliation and mediation services to help resolve disputes between landlords and tenants, and fair housing counseling to individuals who believe they are experiencing discrimination in housing to assist 1,000 persons each year for the next five years for a total of 5,000 persons served.** Without funding to our Rental Housing Mediation Services the County will not be able to meet this objective but with just a minimal continued investment we know we will exceed this goal.

In the last Snohomish County CDBG funding cycle in 2010 we were the highest funded program receiving \$78,198 in both 2010 and 2011 and during these years we have not received any type of warning or negative feedback that our services were not meeting the community needs. We understand that priorities and performance can change in a short period of time but considering the extremely long standing relationship and the significant amount of funding that CDBG invested in Rental Housing Mediation Services particularly in the last 2 years, we respectfully request that the County Council reconsider the decision.

We understand that that the TAC puts a great deal of effort into the scoring process but we feel that as a long standing CDBG program that receives approximately 2,000 calls years from landlords and tenants in the community this decision deserves special attention. We don't want to leave landlords and tenants in the community without some support and notice. The Rental Housing Mediation Services program is crucial to homeless prevention in our community. We feel like there may have been a misunderstanding that RHMS was going to shift its focus to support individuals going through foreclosures but we have every intention that the program maintain its core landlord and tenant services and trainings.

In closing, if the County Council believes that the Rental Housing Mediation Services are not a priority for funding in the community at this time, we request that we can at least receive some partial funding for 2012-2014 to allow us an opportunity to secure other funding sources for

this long term program. Through these many years we have developed a strong partnership with Snohomish County and feel strongly that the investment that has been made on both sides is worth saving. Finally, this program has been a fixture in Snohomish County for over 3 decades, it is part of what has made Everett a supportive and caring community to live in, and we hope that there is a way to give it a chance to continue to serve the people of Snohomish County.

We sincerely appreciate your long-time support and your consideration.

*Matt Phillips*

**Matt Phillips, Director**  
Volunteers of America Dispute Resolution Center  
of Snohomish, Island, & Skagit Counties  
425-339-1335 ext. 2325

MR MORGAN DAVIS  
7510 180TH ST SE  
SNOHOMISH WA 98296  
4-23-2012

APR 23 2012

Good afternoon:

CC'D TO	CF	MJI
JCA	DIST 1	KJB
SAF	DIST 2	STM
BMG	DIST 3	PLS
WVH	DIST 4	GOV
SKN	DIST 5	

I have submitted letters to the Council on 3-16, 3-19, 4-17, and 4-20 concerning the proposed "Pilduck Place" project at 2nd and E in Snohomish.

I think Pilduck Place is a costly, bad deal for not only the taxpayers, but also ~~for~~ a bad deal for working, poor families.

I have 4 questions for you to ask Human Services staff:

1. How many on-site parking spaces are there for tenants and their visitors?
2. What is the percent of open space and previous surfaces?
3. Is there a play area for children away from Second Street, Snohomish's busiest major arterial?
4. What is the real estate listing agent's commission on this deal? What is the selling agent's commission? What date was the 'Purchase and Sales Agreement' signed?

I understand the underlying zoning for 1313 Second Street and 131 Ave E is MDR or for a total of 6 multi-family units. Apparently, there was a fire and current code requirements were waived in 2006.

\$153 per square foot is high-end, costly housing for even middle class families. As I stated in my letters to you, this is 'cadillac' housing for the very poor when there is perfectly good or better 'chevrolet' housing elsewhere in Snohomish for \$86 per square foot.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Dean Weitenhagen, a supervisor in Human Services, told me that the seller demanded an extra premium allowance on this deal because he was selling to the "government" and would have to wait a few months to get County and HUD approvals. This, after his property has been continuously 'for sale' since 2006, with no takers.



**RECEIVED**

**MAY 04 2012**

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

Mr. Morgan Davis  
7510 – 180<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Main  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Phone: 360-668-0879

Snohomish County Public Hearing  
11:00AM, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 6A02  
– Consolidated Action Plan – 2012  
Citizen Comments

Good Morning:

According to a letter in the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Herald, County Councilman John Koster promised to sign Grover Norquist's pledge of "no new taxes" if he is elected to Congress.

However, it was John Koster that pushed Housing Hope's proposed "Pilchuck Place" project forward on March 16<sup>th</sup> and on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for a final vote on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

A true fiscal conservative would have seen this deal as "high-end", "Cadillac" housing for the very poor at \$153 per square foot and stopped this project from going forward. Aside from the high cost, "Pilchuck Place" is not suitable for the working poor with children. Parking is minimal, most units are small one-bedroom units; there is no open space or play area and it is located right on Second Street, Snohomish's busiest major arterial.

And, Dean Weitenhagen, Snohomish County Human Services Supervisor states "It definitely won't be a women's shelter". Also, the enclosed Table 3C on Page A-18 of HUD Form No. 2506-0117 states "the proposed Pilchuck Place will provide rental housing to very low-income individuals".

Just think what \$600,000 could do for homeless individuals at the Everett Gospel Rescue Mission or could provide another 75 Section 8 vouchers for homeless U.S. military veterans.

The County Council should reject this proposed Pilchuck Place deal on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The \$600,000 in HUD money won't be lost. It will be "banked" for 2013 when Housing Hope, HASCO, the Everett Gospel Rescue Mission and others can again bid for it in a real competitive process.

Sincerely,



Morgan Davis

cc: All Snohomish County Council Members  
Gary Haakenson, County Deputy Executive ✓

enclosure