

September 15, 2020

Washington State Department of Commerce,
Housing Trust Fund
2020 Community Housing/Cottage Communities Program

Subject: City of Yakima Letter of Program Support for Justice Housing of Yakima Project

Dear Housing Trust Fund Grant Manager,

This letter is will acknowledge the full support of the Mayor and Yakima City Council for the Justice Housing of Yakima application for funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce "2020 Community Housing and Cottage Community Funding Grant" to fund Permanent Supportive Housing of approximately 30 micro-homes within the City of Yakima, Washington. These units are intended for Permanent Supportive Housing which is an identified need in the City of Yakima 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Justice Housing has worked extensively with the Yakima Community to gain public trust and acceptance with their conceptual program. This will be the first "micro-home" village in Yakima. Affordable housing, particularly for low to moderate income residents is a desperate need in our community and is a "Strategic Priority" for the Yakima City Council.

The City of Yakima has taken a number of actions to promote and encourage the development of in-fill housing, construction of new housing and maintenance of existing housing. These include extensive amendments to City Zoning ordinance that promotes micro-housing developments as a permitted use in R-3 zoning district, amendments to the City Ordinance for the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to increase the flexible threshold for exemptions to the maximum of 60 units, reduced the level of review for many types of residential development, increased the number and range of zoning districts where housing is permitted and various other techniques. Additionally, the City of Yakima is currently preparing a Housing Action Plan, under the Department of Commerce Program HB 1923 fund.

At this time, the City of Yakima has not processed the land use permits for development of this project and we understand that Justice Housing will partner with an established community partner to manage the project.

Patricia Byers, Mayor