



# BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



August 26, 2020

Yakima City Council  
Attention: Mayor Patricia Byers  
City of Yakima  
129 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Yakima, WA 98901

Dear Mayor Byers and Council:

We are writing to express our interest in forming a partnership with the City of Yakima's Office of Neighborhood Development Services to support Yakima County's Home Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) Consortium.

The goal of the HOME Consortium, a collection of seven Lower Valley cities, the town of Harrah and unincorporated Yakima County, is to provide affordable and supportive housing for lower-income households. Since 2009, the Consortium has offered housing and rental rehabilitation and new construction for those households. Like the Office of Neighborhood Development Services, it operates under federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements to help our residents most in need. Yakima County serves as the lead entity for this important mission.

Recently, however, we find ourselves at a crossroad regarding the administration of the HOME Program. Our long-time program manager is leaving County employment, and one of the two support positions is vacant. Due to COVID 19, we currently do not have the capacity to restructure the administration of the program to complete current HOME projects. Hence this letter.

We are requesting to hold a conversation with City Leadership about entering into an agreement to allow Neighborhood Development Services Manager Archie Matthews to coordinate and manage the day-to-day operations of the HOME Program. The purpose would be to guide the Consortium through the existing home improvement and new development projects. We see it as an interim measure to allow the County time to discuss with the Consortium members the future vision of the program, and not as a long-term commitment.

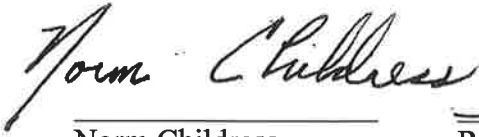
The benefit to both County and City residents is significant: the collaboration will help ensure the City meets its own low income housing goals by offering additional low income housing in neighboring communities and unincorporated Yakima County.

We know we share the important goal of assisting low-income residents with safe, decent affordable housing, and look forward to engaging with you in this important discussion.

We will follow up with you shortly.

Sincerely,

Board of Yakima County Commissioners



Norm Childress  
Chairman of the Board  
Commissioner, District 3



Ron Anderson  
Commissioner, District 2



Vicki Baker  
Commissioner, District 1

Cc: Craig Warner, Yakima County Budget Director  
Lisa Freund, Public Services Director