

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Greg Brotherton, Chair BOCC

DATE: August 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Discussion and Potential Action RE: Letter of Support for Olympic Housing Trust

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Olympic Housing Trust would like a letter of support as they seek Commerce dollars for their Dundee Hill Project.

ANALYSIS:

Deliberate and if the BoCC chooses send the letter as drafted or modify and send per BoCC decision.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action is fiscally neutral.

RECOMMENDATION:

Deliberate the language and intent of letter and decide on action.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

8/3/23
Date



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

August 7, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

The Olympic Housing Trust is Jefferson County's only community land trust. We support their first project for affordable workforce housing in Jefferson County, and to this end have seen fit to allocate \$80,000 in our final ARPA funding towards their Dundee Hill project. Our staff, as well, is prepared to support future grants that require sponsorship through the County government, such as CHIP, or CDBG.

The housing crisis is impacting workforce housing in a manner difficult to address in the public sphere, and we are encouraged by the community land trust model, and their specific project on Dundee Hill. With most public funds directed to 60% and below of AMI, it is doubly critical to find ways to support workforce housing. The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners believe that Olympic Housing Trust is a natural candidate for future funding from the county as a local non-profit housing provider.

This letter is to support Olympic Housing Trust's development of that project as they focus on workforce housing in Jefferson County. We wish them success and hope to see them able to develop these five units of permanently affordable workforce housing. Our social fabric depends on the preservation and development of housing on all rungs of the housing continuum and supporting community land trusts is an important element in that housing course correction.

Sincerely,

Jefferson County Commissioners

Kate Dean
District 1

Heidi Eisenhour
District 2

Greg Brotherton, Chair
District 3