The Connection Fund

Building Communities. Rebuilding Lives.

January 29, 2013

To: Appropriation Committee – Honorable Chairs: Sen. Toni N. Harp and Rep. Toni E. Walker and members

To: Housing Committee-Honorable Chairs: Sen. Dante J. C. Bartolomeo and Rep. Larry B. Butler and members

To: Human Services Committee -Honorable Chairs: Sen. Gayle Slossberg and Rep. Catherine Abercrombie and members

RE: Public Hearing on the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing Report and Recommendations

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you in allowing me to testify here today on the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing's first report(1/15/2013) in advising and assisting the Commissioner of the Department of Housing in the planning and implementation of the Department of Housing(created by Public Act- 12-1 in June 2012 special session).

First, as a developer of affordable housing, I would like the opportunity to expressly thank the members of this council for their hard work, dedication in its mission and charge in providing a well thought out report that includes very important recommendations to the Department of Housing Commission found on page 33 of the report.

Second, the Housing Department will utilized more flexible funding mechanisms and application requirements for housing developers by supporting the component of predictability in financing opportunities in the pre-development and development process.

Third, the Housing Department will have all the affordable housing resources implemented in one department with consistency at one site only.

Fourth, the Housing Department will coordinate with other agencies at the underwriting level and will be consistent in the timing of funding opportunities and leveraging of funds so that the costs of pre-development and construction is greatly reduced and a greater production of affordable housing is achieved.

In addition, the positions of a Supportive Housing Director and Fair Housing Director should be included within the Department of Housing.

Wherefore, I strongly support the report and its recommendation as set forth on page 33 of said report.

Very truly yours,

Beth A. Hogan, Project Developer, Attorney

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