

April 12, 2017

Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr. M.D.
Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Robert C. Weaver Federal Building
451 Seventh Street, SW, Mail Stop S
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Carson,

Congratulations on your confirmation last month as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Just last month, six Tacoma City Councilmembers met with several of your Washington, D.C. staff in Grant Programs, Special Needs Assistance Programs, and Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations to convey our strong support of HUD programs.

At our meeting, we learned that you will be embarking on a national listening tour. We invite you to include a visit to Tacoma, Washington where our work has been aligned well with HUD strategies and, as a result, made the most of programs such as HOPE VI, Moving to Work, CDBG and HOME. We highly value the partnership and support we have cultivated with HUD.

HOPE VI investments transformed 850 deteriorating WWII era units and infrastructure into a still growing master-planned community of 1,270 mixed-income homes dotted with parks and greenbelts. The flexibility afforded to local governments in applying Moving to Work investments allowed innovation of the McCarver Project showcased at the national How Housing Matters conference as an exemplary initiative for moving families out of homelessness at the same time as beginning to help close the education achievement gap. CDBG and HOME, by far, have been the most supportive in helping local leaders to meet local needs by giving city leaders some discretion in how the money is spent. Tacoma has used CDBG to leverage private investment, rebuild infrastructure, create affordable and safe housing, spur small business job creation, and provide services that revitalize our most challenged and low-income neighborhoods.

At nearly 207,000 people, Tacoma is a mid-size city and a secondary market within the Puget Sound metropolitan area anchored by Seattle. As you travel the country to deepen your understanding of the impacts of HUD investments, we invite you to Tacoma to encourage your exploration of how HUD is a vital support for "middle" communities such as ours.

Again, we are very appreciative of the partnership and support we have received from HUD over the years. We look forward to continuing to work effectively with the agency in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Robert Thoms, Deputy Mayor

Keith Blocker, Councilmember

Marty Campbell, Councilmember

Anders Ibsen, Councilmember

Conor McCarthy, Councilmember

Lauren Walker Lee, Councilmember

cc: Stanley Hardy IV, Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations Please include the other staff members who were present at the meeting in this section