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May 11, 2021

Pete Ansara
Chief Executive Officer
Korean Women's Association
123 East 96th Street
Tacoma, WA 98445

Re: Letter of Support – KWA 15th & Tacoma - HUD 202 Capital Advance Application

Dear Mr. Ansara,

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Korean Women's Association (KWA) 15th & Tacoma project in downtown Tacoma, WA. The project will create a resource that is much needed in the community by providing 85 units of deeply affordable housing for seniors with services and enrichment programs. It will be an essential addition to affordable housing in Tacoma with its community amenities to support low-income seniors' wellness and ability to age in place. Tacoma is the third largest city in Washington State (population over 210K) and proud of our diverse communities (12% Latino/ Hispanic, 10.5% Black/ African American, and 10% Asian American and Pacific Islander). 14.6% of Tacoma residents are living in poverty, 13% are 65 years and older, and 11% of our residents under 65 years old are experiencing disability, and City of Tacoma is strongly committed to providing resources and services for our most vulnerable residents.

City of Tacoma realizes that there is a crisis level of shortage of affordable senior housing, especially one that is integrated with supportive services spanning in-home care, social services, and community health and preventative education services. City of Tacoma recognizes KWA's valuable contribution and services for seniors and families in Tacoma for 45 years. KWA provides affordable senior housing, senior meal sites, in-home care, domestic violence shelter, social services, community health care coordination, and preventative wellness education in multiple languages, including Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese, Indonesian, Samoan, Russian, Ukrainian, Somali, Korean, and English. With Peter Ansara (CEO of KWA)'s previous experience as the Executive Director of Tacoma Housing Authority and the Director of Pierce County Human Services, we are confident that our city will be well-served with additional senior housing properties developed by KWA.

City of Tacoma also became an Age-Friendly City in 2020, joining AARP's nationwide network of cities that promote age-friendly policies and resources. Led by Councilmember Lillian Hunter, with participation from Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker, KWA, and other agencies, we are focusing on affordable Housing as one of the priority areas.

We specifically support your application to the HUD 202 Capital Advance Program; your proposed program is the type of project envisioned by this program. By combining federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits and the HUD 202 Capital Advance Funds, this project will have the capital and operating funds necessary to succeed.

Please let me know if there is anything else we can do to support your efforts on this exciting project.

Sincerely,

INSERT Mayor and Councilmembers Signature Blocks Here