

David Levy, President
Fair Housing Council

Gary Dunn, Vice President
Banc of California

Elsa Monte, Secretary
Pacific Western Bank

Kandy Hung, Treasurer
East West Bank

Douglas Bystry
Clearinghouse CDFI

Matthew Gediman
US Bank

Larry Christian
Old Republic Title

Ray Nayar
AOF Pacific Affordable Housing

August 3, 2017

Mayor Steve Jones and Members of the City Council
City of Garden Grove
11222 Acacia Parkway
Garden Grove, CA 92840

SUBJECT: Application for Transitional Housing Grant Veterans Village I (Josephine Street)

Dear Mayor Jones and Members of the City Council:

The Affordable Housing Clearinghouse (AHC) is well aware of the City of Garden Grove's affordable rental housing project located at Josephine Street. We are writing to express our strong support for the Transitional Housing Grant from the State of CA Housing and Community Development Department which is needed now more than ever. AHC was formed in 1990 to facilitate affordable housing in our community. It was formed by the Orange County Community Reinvestment Act Coalition, a cooperative network of community organizations, non-profit housing corporations, public agencies, non-profit housing shelters, and advocates for lower income people. This Coalition included the Orange County Human Relations Commission, the Fair Housing Council of Orange County, and the Orange County Homeless Issues Task Force. Today, AHC is a premier community nonprofit partner, homebuyer education and affordable housing provider in Southern California, and we work with cities, counties, and non-profit organizations to promote homeownership. We are also well aware of the tremendous need for quality affordable housing in Garden Grove, CA.

The housing affordability crisis in Garden Grove is increasing each year, especially due to home selling prices and apartment rents that residents can't afford. Skyrocketing rents and home prices are forcing our families to live in overcrowded housing and substandard housing conditions. Our families are extremely rent burdened, as most of their limited income (over half) is used to pay for housing costs. This is particularly affecting military and veteran families in our local community.

We support the City of Garden Grove's initiative in applying for the Transitional Housing Grant for several reasons: Given the housing crises, we need services immediately, and Veterans Village one is a critical housing asset for the city and the existing housing need. These transitional rental units will be 100% affordable to households earning 80% of Area's Median Income, and the project provides 14 housing units designed for single room occupancy— a great need and almost non-existent in the existing housing market. Please accept this letter in support of the application.

Yours,

Brenda J. Rodriguez