



May 5, 2022

Planning Commission  
22 Civic Center Plaza  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SUBJECT: Support for Density Bonus Agreement Application No. 2022-01**

Dear Planning Commission,

On behalf of Working Wardrobes, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for WISEPlace and its efforts to develop permanent supportive housing for women experiencing homelessness, some of Orange County's most vulnerable citizens for whom there has been a longstanding housing shortage.

As active members of the community, Working Wardrobes is pleased to support this solution to ending homelessness through this development and wrap around services provided by WISEPlace. At Working Wardrobes, we do everything in our power to help men, women, young adults and veterans overcome difficult challenges so they can achieve the dignity of work, and the Power of a Paycheck. We have been very hands on, engaged as active members of our community, and proud WISEPlace supporters and volunteers who work directly with the population served and have seen firsthand the power of housing solutions and wrap around services onsite. We specialize in workforce development, and cannot effectively help some of our clients without the services provided by WISEPlace.

The 2019 Point in Time showed there were over 6800 homeless residents in Orange County. Affordable Housing options for women are a growing community concern. One in three women make up this part of the homeless population with over 40% survivors of domestic violence. This population of women endure high rates of first-time homelessness, longer spells of homelessness, and higher barriers in accessing stable housing. Unaccompanied women also report extremely high incidence of trauma—whether physical, sexual, or psychological in nature—that is compounded by their ongoing houselessness. The opportunity to create options for women on this site with so many community amenities will provide a safe home for women for future generations.

Affordable housing is a resource to our communities that provides stability, community, and economic opportunity to our neighbors. We only have this resource if we build it. With so many rent-burdened and struggling to make ends meet because of rising rents across the state, this housing would provide a tool to help our community and provide stability, and protection for our vulnerable residents.

We are pleased to see the groundwork that has gone into exploring the existing WISEPlace location. Creating permanent housing for vulnerable women will create an important solution that has never been specifically addressed in Orange County. A place where women can live paying no more than 30% of their income in rent along with support services to address their disabling conditions will create a permanent stable environment where they can thrive.



This opportunity to provide affordable housing at this existing location can create a welcome solution to a growing community need. I am pleased to provide support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonni Pomush".

Bonni Pomush  
CEO

Working Wardrobes

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