



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

731 East 8th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 279-2511 ♦ Fax: (907) 278-2309
www.ruralcap.com

February 8, 2013

Don Crandall, Acting President
Mountain View Community Council
P.O. Box 142824
Anchorage, AK 99514-2824

RE: Relocation of Housing First in Anchorage

Dear Mr. Crandall:

Thank you for your February 6, 2013 letter regarding the proposed relocation and expansion of Housing First (Karluk Manor) in Anchorage.

I apologize for any frustration that you or other members of the Mountain View Community Council may have experienced over a lack of communication or transparency with this proposed project. Please let me assure you that this is the last thing we want. We have tried to be a good neighbor and partner with the Community Council with our affordable housing units and Homeward Bound program operating in Mountain View over the past 15 years. We will continue to invite you or your representative to our own advisory council meetings and make it a priority to attend yours and keep the lines of communication open.

Regarding the proposed relocation and expansion of Housing First in Anchorage, RurAL CAP wants to be an open book. We strive for transparency and accountability with all of our programs and services. Please feel free to call me at work (865-7364) or home (348-6636) at any time for the latest information about this project.

I recently confirmed with our Supportive Housing Division Director, Melinda Freemon, that either she or Operations Manager Ken Scollan have attended the past two Mountain View Community Council meetings to report on the latest developments with Housing First. Melinda has also been in direct communication with Daniel George about this project.

RurAL CAP has been operating the 46-unit Housing First project at Karluk Manor since December 2011. We have made both the property and the location work, but we recognize that there is interest in the property and the belief by many that the current location is not ideal. We have said all along that we support having more Housing First units in Anchorage to get more homeless chronic alcoholics off the streets either by opening a second facility or relocating and expanding from Karluk Manor to a larger facility.

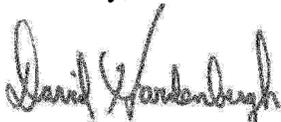
The first potential site identified by the Municipality that I was aware of for a possible relocation of Housing First was a building on Porcupine Street that did not pan out. I was later invited to a meeting

with Mayor Sullivan last fall to discuss the feasibility of new construction on vacant land on the site near Commercial Drive and Reeve Boulevard. I told the Mayor that RurAL CAP would be a willing partner with the Municipality and other potential funders to explore the idea as a possible way to expand Housing First, but there were no backroom deals made or any attempts to keep the process confidential.

I don't know yet whether the Commercial Drive site may be suitable. At this point RurAL CAP has no "site control" over this property and is continuing to explore site and funding options. We do know that relocating Housing First is a priority for the Municipality and some neighboring businesses, but that making this a reality will take considerable time and the combined efforts of many partners, funders and community leaders working together. I have full confidence that there will be ample time for public involvement and public process going forward including the detailed requirements of the Severe Alcohol Dependent Housing ordinance. We welcome your input and guidance on how to develop a good public involvement process.

Melinda Freemon was already planning to attend the February 11, 2013 Mountain View Community Council meeting, but I again encourage you to contact me at any time with questions or concerns. We look forward to maintaining and strengthening our positive relationship with you and the Community Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hardenbergh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

David Hardenbergh
Executive Director