



To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP) I write to express my enthusiastic support and endorsement of the proposal to develop deeply affordable housing at 339 W. Haywood Street as envisioned by Haywood Street Community Development.

The Ryan White Care program has long considered safe and affordable housing an essential first step for people living with HIV to achieve wellness. As administrators of the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA), we struggle to find suitable options that fall under the fair market rate as is required. We are aware of the urgent need for all forms of affordable housing in our community.

We are familiar with the plans of HSCD to fill some of the particularly critical unmet need for deeply affordable housing by constructing 45 units on the lot at 339 W. Haywood. Most of WNCAP's clients' specialty care providers are located in Asheville. This location provides excellent access to residents who need to live near the city center to access these and other essential services.

WNCAP's housing program is challenged by the fact that 90% of subsidized housing operates with a waiting list, and that there is no availability of affordable housing units in our city as noted in the Bowen Report. Additionally, the number of landlords in Buncombe County who will accept vouchers is extremely limited and many low-income residents are unable to use vouchers that they hold. It is common for our clients to wait weeks and even months for a unit to become available. Some people are left with few options for shelter except their car or tent. Trying to survive in the elements and fearing for personal safety, leaves little room to prioritize healthcare visits. This leads to poorer health outcomes and costly hospitalizations.

We believe that Haywood Street Community Development's proposal for deeply affordable housing at 339 W. Haywood Street will become a place of healing for individuals and our community. It will save public health dollars.

We support and endorse this project and look forward to it addressing this critical need for housing in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peggy Weil'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peggy Weil, Interim Chief Operating Officer