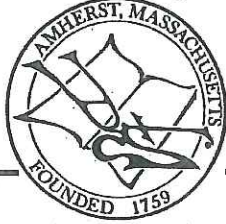


Town of



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

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January 6, 2012

Ms. Catherine Racer
Department of Housing and Community Development
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Racer,

I am writing to convey the Town of Amherst's enthusiastic support for HAP Housing's application for Federal and State low-income tax credits and other funding opportunities to assist in the construction of the *Olympia Oaks* affordable housing project in our town. This support includes, but is not limited to, the Town's approval and support of HAP Housing's application for up to \$1,000,000 in Housing Stabilization Fund funding for *Olympia Oaks*. The Town's experience in running an emergency winter homeless shelter has helped to emphasize the vital need for increasing the supply of affordable housing.

The Town and the community have long been supportive of creating affordable housing at this location, and have offered a 99-year ground lease of the site. Additionally, the Town has approved \$200,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$140,000 in Community Preservation Act funds for predevelopment costs for this project. The ZBA has approved a Comprehensive Permit for the development, which has been recorded and faced no appeal. Infrastructure development for the site—installation of utilities, drainage, road layout, and grading—is nearly complete. The site is ready for construction of housing. HAP Housing has selected a general contractor for the proposed housing development, and after many years of community effort and investment to help address a vital local housing need with this property, HAP Housing is helping to make *Olympia Oaks* a reality. But adequate funding is critical and your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The Amherst Select Board strongly encourages the Department of Housing and Community Development to approve HAP Housing's application and award the tax incentives and other funding requested. The *Olympia Oaks* project has overwhelming local support, and your support would be most welcomed as well.

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. O'Keefe
Chair, Amherst Select Board

cc: Rudy Perkins, HAP Housing

