



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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March 18, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express Clatsop County's support for Clatsop Behavioral Health's permanent supportive housing project in Astoria's Uniontown neighborhood. Clatsop County and Clatsop Behavioral Health have worked closely together for many years to address community well-being and this project is an important contribution to supporting county residents with the services and housing they need.

Clatsop County's Strategic Plan identifies housing of all types as a high priority to meet community needs, and emphasizes the need to provide services and infrastructure that facilitates development of housing for all income levels across the county. Housing of all kinds is seriously needed in Astoria, and the need for permanent supportive housing that supports those struggling with mental health and addiction, is particularly acute. The proposed project will help address these urgent needs.

Clatsop Behavioral Health has been a strong and capable partner for decades in providing services and programs to those who need mental health and addiction treatment, and locating the Open Door program alongside the proposed 32 units of housing will strengthen the connection between providing housing and helping people thrive and succeed in the community and in their lives.

The project will also add to the livability and character of the Uniontown area, providing an active and attractive building on what is now an empty lot on a main thoroughfare. Providing housing for those with lower incomes also helps contribute to Astoria's vitality and diversity, ensuring that a range of people will have a place to call home in our community.

When people have the housing and support they need, their lives can improve. We urge you to support Clatsop Behavioral Health's proposed permanent supportive housing project, as it will create homes and provide support to help improve the lives of Clatsop County residents.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala, Chair

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners