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July 11, 2010

City of Austin

Attention: Ms. Betsy Spencer, Acting Director
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
1100 East 11th Street
Austin, TX

Re: Response to Proposed FY 2011-12 HUD Plan

Dear Ms. Spencer:

The Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) has been a vocal advocate in support of the City of Austin's commitment to provide 350 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) as called out in the March 25, 2010 City Council resolution and the City Manager's September 30, 2010 PSH Strategy. It has long been the DAA's hope that the City's commitment to develop and operate PSH, including 225 units for "chronically homeless frequent users of public systems" would result in prioritizing housing for the most destitute people in our community – helping them get off of the streets and into safe, stable, affordable housing.

In the FY 2011-2012 Proposed HUD Plan, it is not clear which of the subpopulations called out in the September 30 Strategy are being served by PSH units already in place or by those being proposed for the coming budget year. Of the remaining \$6.6 million in GO Bond funding being proposed for allocation, it appears that \$1.7 million is being allocated to the 350 unit goal, but, again, the breakdown of sub-populations to be served by those units is not clear. Since the December 2010 allocation of GO Bond funds, the DAA has requested clarification on this question on numerous occasions, but we have not yet gotten a clear response.

Even though the DAA is strongly supportive of the city's PSH initiatives, we will stand in opposition to

approval of the FY 2011-2012 Proposed Plan until it is clear that our most vulnerable, chronically homeless citizens are being served.

We would request that this letter be made known to the Community Development Commission prior to their Tuesday, July 12 meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charles A. Betts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being more prominent and the last name "Betts" following in a similar style.

Charles A. Betts
Executive Director

CC: Mayor Lee Leffingwell
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