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August 14, 2014

Andrew Lofton, Executive Director  
Seattle Housing Authority  
PO Box 19028  
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Lofton:

We are writing to express concerns regarding the "Stepping Forward" program you have recently proposed to be implemented by the Seattle Housing Authority. While we recognize the overall goals behind this proposal, we believe it needs significant further research and deliberation to ensure that it does not have a major, negative impact on our neighbors in Lake City who are SHA residents or receive housing vouchers.

A remarkable feature of the Lake City community is its diversity—in age, culture, perspective, and circumstances. Our community includes many young immigrant families headed by parents struggling to find or retain work, learn a new language, keep their children safe, and improve their lives. As Mayor Murray stated in his July 31<sup>st</sup> letter to you on this proposal, many of the households that would be affected by this policy change are headed by a single parent who may not yet be English proficient. She or he may face multiple obstacles on the path toward work advancement and the ability to move into independent housing. Many deemed "work-able" have had to leave jobs and/or have had to drop ESL classes that would help them advance due to a lack of suitable childcare options. Services that would ameliorate these challenges are underfunded or non-existent.

Our area includes many individuals and families who benefit by Section 8 vouchers—the most recent data we have from SHA showed 495 vouchers in the 98125 zip code. In the North District, which includes Lake City, the data showed a substantial number of extremely low income (ELI) housing units—895, of which 484 were concentrated in the Cedar Park/Meadowbrook neighborhood.

LCNA strongly supports mixed-income housing and we are concerned about the concentration of ELI housing in our area, but we do not wish to see some of the most vulnerable families in Lake City "cycled out" by SHA when they have no alternatives. Housing affordability is an issue our city struggles with and has not been addressed.

We understand that SHA is looking for innovative ways to encourage work advancement and make room for many who are waiting for housing. However, we echo Mayor Murray's request that further work be done to ensure that there is not a disproportionate impact on women and young immigrant families before this initiative is brought to the public. Thank you for your consideration.

Very sincerely,

Sandra Adams Motzer  
Chair  
[sandymotzer@aol.com](mailto:sandymotzer@aol.com)  
206.819.8056

cc: SHA Board of Commissioners; Mayor Murray; Seattle City Council