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November 19, 2024

TO: Mayor and City Councilmembers of the City of San Clemente.

RE: Support for Agenda Item 11E and the Affordable Housing Project.

Orange County United Way (OCUW) writes today to express our support for the agenda item regarding the Affordable Housing Project that is under consideration. This proposal would convert a motel into affordable apartments and contribute 12 units of high-quality affordable housing units for our community.

This development is meeting a crucial and growing need in our community that is cited as one of the most-pressing concerns, according to a 2023 public opinion poll conducted by the UC-Irvine School of Social Ecology (www.unitedtoendhomelessness.org/oc-poll).

To support our growing workforce, we need more accessible and affordable housing options to meet the demand. Developments like this help to meet this need as well as foster a sense of community within San Clemente and throughout the region.

Lack of affordable housing is also consistently cited as the primary reason for homelessness, so adding more affordable housing will prevent many from experiencing the trauma of living on the streets.

In 2018, OCUW launched United to End Homelessness, a powerful collaboration among Orange County's top business, philanthropic, government, faith-based, and non-profit leaders committed to ending homelessness and ensuring housing and services are available for every individual who may need them. United to End Homelessness has been an influential voice in advocating for housing as the solution to end homelessness, and OCUW has always supported and maintained that affordable, stable housing is the building block to success. We are eager to be a resource to you in finding solutions to serve your entire community.

Thank you for your support of the Affordable Housing Project. We are grateful to you for your willingness to improve the lives of those in-need in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan B. Parks".

Susan B. Parks
President & CEO