



June 21, 2019

To Portland Housing Bureau Bond Selection Committee

Re: Innovative Housing Inc Proposal for the Mann House

I am the President of the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association (LNA) Board. The Board has been informed of the proposed purchase of the Anna Lewis Mann Old People's Home (Mann House) by Innovative Housing Inc (IHI).

The Mann House property was originally part of the Hazel Fern Farm, from which the Laurelhurst neighborhood was developed in 1909. Located at 1031 NE 33rd Ave, just across the street from Laurelhurst and within the Laurelhurst Plan District, the Mann House was built by a group of socially-minded Portlanders, led by Anna Lewis Mann, as a home for elderly Portlanders of modest means. The Mann House has always been a part of Laurelhurst in history and spirit, and longtime Laurelhurst residents well remember when this historic building was our local "old folks home".

The LNA Board has been advised that IHI intends to convert the Mann House to approximately 80 units of affordable family housing with resident services on-site. We understand that the historic character of the original buildings will be preserved along with the mature tree canopy, landscaping, and on-site parking. IHI recently met with the Board to discuss its plans for the development and management of the property, future neighborhood involvement and outreach, and the proposed sources and uses of the project proceeds. It seems to the Board that IHI's project both restores the Mann House to its historical use of community-minded affordable housing and preserves the historic character of the neighborhood.

Affordable family housing is a critical need in Portland, and the adaptive re-use of historic buildings is an important and cost-effective way to meet this need. The LNA Board was pleased to learn of this project and appreciative of IHI's outreach to our neighborhood. We believe IHI will continue to solicit the LNA's feedback as plans for the project progress and collaborate with the neighborhood to resolve any issues or concerns that may arise.

On behalf of the LNA Board, I urge your favorable review of IHI's proposal and authorization of the necessary affordable housing funds.

This letter has been sent upon a unanimous vote of the LNA Board.

Sincerely,

Jeff Martin
President, Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association