

August 4, 2020

To: City Council, City of Florence
Joe Henry, Mayor
Woody Woodbury, Council President
Ron Preisler, Council Vice-President
Geraldine Prociw, Councilor
Joshua Greene, Councilor

Fm: Andrew Grzeskowiak
40 Fawn View Lane
Florence, OR 97439

Re: Support of Workforce Housing Project
Resolution PC 20-07 PUD 01
Resolution PC 20-08 PUD 01

Honored Members of the City Council,

There is a proposed housing development for the area of 35th and Rhododendron streets here in Florence and this workforce housing project is deserving of the support of the City of Florence.

In my position with the Siuslaw School District, I regularly see the impact of insufficient workforce and affordable housing in the local area. Each year students and their families struggle finding available housing. This stress creates an uneven playing field for students. Without adequate housing, these students struggle to have a regular place outside of school to continue their learning at home. There is a direct relationship to academic success and a stable home environment. Each year the school district loses students as working families move to other areas with more housing options.

This struggle to find workforce housing also impacts the teaching staff. Several staff live outside of the Florence area, as they could not find a home when first hired with the district. This commuting makes building relationships between students and their teachers more difficult. Students succeed when they have a genuine relationship with a caring adult regardless of the content area. Many relationships are built when teachers have the opportunity to see their students outside of the classroom in other activities. Being able to attend these extracurricular activities is more difficult when staff are forced to commute every day.

Workforce housing enhances community livability. Workforce housing is a foundational element of stable communities. Workforce housing supports families and students, as well as those in the community that depend upon the services provided by those in the workforce.

The support of workforce housing by the City of Florence City Council is support for a stronger community as workforce housing provides workers with an opportunity to establish their home and family in Florence. This creates stability for businesses and the community for the future.

Respectfully,



Andrew S. Grzeskowiak

Exhibit L32