

Michelle Vivian-Jemison

Fri 1/27/2023 3:21 PM

Dear Adam -

Please accept this as a letter of support for the Southern Tier Project.

My husband Eugene Jemison and I have directly benefited from IHT's efforts to support this community's housing crisis. We are proud first time homebuyers on MV and we would not have been able to achieve this milestone without IHT efforts and assistance.

I feel compelled to appeal to you directly to urge your Commissioners to rapidly approve the Southern Tier project. Please make this email a part of the project's public record and share this with the appropriate staff and all of the Commissioners

As I am sure you are aware, the Island's housing crisis continues to escalate its negative impact on our economy and infrastructure. In MVC's own recent housing needs assessment it concluded that the Island's socio-economic diversity is eroding at an alarming rate. We can see this nearly daily as businesses close and people leave the island.

IHT and Affirmative Investments were selected by the Town of Oak Bluffs in response to the town's RFP that clearly recognized the desperate need for attainable housing options. The Southern Tier project directly tackles this critical need by providing affordable and community housing for year-round residents.

Numerous public meetings were held before the project came to the MVC for your review. The design before you is the result of many hours of work by seasoned professionals who had to consider and balance more than a few conditions and variables to satisfy as many constituencies as possible. While I certainly understand some of the concerns raised, it is impossible to provide housing at scale that will please everyone. I ask that approval be expedited, as delay could jeopardize funding applications that could cost us a year.

In the MVC's language, the benefits to the island - its people, the economy and the community - far outweigh the detriments. Please approve this project as soon as possible.

Thank you,

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Michelle Vivian-Jemison

MVTV

Access Coordinator & Instructor