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Noepe Aquatics Center
Home of Alex's Place
Martha's Vineyard Ice Arena

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December 22, 2022

Adam Turner

MVC Executive Director

33 New York Ave,

Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Mr. Turner,

Please accept this as a letter of support for the Southern Tier Project on behalf of the YMCA of Martha's Vineyard. The Island's housing crisis continues to have a negative impact on our economy and infrastructure. In addition, limits family and resident access to the supportive services and programming the Island has to offer, such as the YMCA of Martha's Vineyard.

Island Housing Trust (IHT) and Affirmative Investments (AI) partnership was selected by the Town of Oak Bluffs in May of 2022 to develop and manage the project consisting of 45 affordable rentals. The project will the neighbor the YMCA and provide a direct walkway to the center.

In MVC's 2020 housing need assessment they concluded that the Island's socio-economic diversity is eroding at an alarming rate, due to the skyrocketing real estate market. The report found that many households are forced to search farther away from the Town's denser areas to find affordable housing, making it more difficult for them to access recreational resources like the Martha's Vineyard YMCA. The MVC housing needs assessment recommended an ambitious goal of producing 50 units of affordable and community housing annually to address the issue. The Southern Tier project directly tackles this critical need by providing 100% affordable and community housing for year round families and residents.

We support the IHT and AI team in their efforts to develop Southern Tier and provide the much needed affordable housing to the town of Oak Bluffs.

Sincerely,

Jill Robie-Axtell

Executive Director of the YMCA of Martha's Vineyard