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The Clark County Council fully supports the Tenny Creek Assisted Living 2019 Capital Budget request for \$1.75 million dollars.

The proposed Tenny Creek Assisted Living facility in Vancouver, Washington will provide critical housing and supports for individuals with complex behavioral and physical health challenges. Due to their complex medical needs and difficulty living independently, these individuals currently have few options for housing. As a result, they often rotate between homelessness, incarceration, homeless shelters, and Western State Hospital. Our community can, and must, serve these individuals better.

For the last couple of years, stakeholders in our community have been planning an assisted living facility that will meet the needs of this population. The Tenny Creek facility will be a 40-unit studio apartment complex targeted for low-income and homeless individuals with mental health conditions. This is a community-based alternative to Western State Hospital. The facility will provide assisted living staff support 24/7, including a central kitchen and dining facility. These services will be provided by the Center for Community Living, an entity out of the Portland metro area with experience providing these services. Additionally, local mental health providers will be located on-site, such as Lifeline Connections, Columbia River Mental Health Services, and/or Community Services Northwest.

As the County Council, we are always striving to ensure facilities built using taxpayer dollars have an appropriate financial plan for ongoing maintenance and operational expenses. Tenny Creek meets this objective. Medicaid will pay for the services provided to Tenny Creek residents, and the Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) will provide rent subsidies to the residents – these rent subsidies can be modified as necessary by the VHA to ensure the residents can continue to live there, and the building maintenance can continue to be paid.

The \$1.75 million dollar Capital Budget request, though a large amount, is a small portion of the overall cost of this first-of-its-kind facility in Washington state. The remainder of the \$13 million dollar project will be funded with the low-income housing tax credit, county funds, funds from the VHA, and hopefully a Housing Trust Fund grant. It is important to note, as well, that the first floor of Tenny Creek will be all institutional space, including a commercial kitchen and dining room, and treatment rooms. Though key for the facility, these spaces do not qualify for many of the housing grants. As such, the Capital Budget request is necessary and important.

Thank you for your consideration in funding the Tenny Creek Assisted Living project.

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Marc Boldt, Council Chair

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Jeanne E. Stewart, Councilor District 1

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