

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:
OLYMPIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
AMENDMENTS TO PROGRAM YEAR 2016**

All sent on 2/28/17 Via Email

Dear Council Members,

My name is Megan Moore and I am currently a student at Evergreen State College and an intern at Homes First. I am writing this letter to show my support of Homes First request for funding to upgrade the Molly B Oxford House. The home is a Victorian style built in the 1900's and is in dire need of repair.

I have been an intern with Homes First for almost a month, and working so closely with staff I have learned a lot about the housing crisis we face as a community. The homelessness rate continues to increase while the number of low income housing continues to drop.

Homes First creates affordable housing to those that need it most, they support their tenants, and they create safe living communities.

Thanks to Homes First, The Molly B house was able to positively impact the lives of over 120 women and 60 children in our community. Now Homes First needs support from the city to continue to help the tenants of the Molly B House. I strongly support the mission of Homes First, and I hope that you will too.

Kind Regards,

Megan Moore <meganpm8@gmail.com>
Homes First Intern

I understand you will be discussing adding \$225,000 to the Housing Rehab Loan Fund Program. I volunteer at Homes First. In a nutshell, they take a derelict home, rehab it, rent it to a low income family and then become the landlord. Every day we get phone calls asking if we have low income housing available. Even though we have 36 properties, we have none available. We had one available a month ago and by the time we opened at 9:00am, there was a line waiting to apply for the one house we had.

With rents escalating, the need is certainly there. Rehabilitation of homes instead of building new ones makes such good sense.

I am very impressed with the staff at Homes First. The staff is caring, empathetic and very professional. I can't think of a better organization to carry out your vision for more rehabilitations of homes for low income families.

Valerie Gerst <vagerst@comcast.net>
Homes First Board Member

Dear City of Olympia Council Members,

Attachment #4

I am writing to you as a board member and Intern with Homes First non-profit. I have been working with them since December. Though my time with them has been short, my passion for their mission is strong. My intent is to show my concern for the repairs needed for the Molly B. Oxford house. Homes First have asked for 68K to make necessary upgrades to withhold the value, appearance, and function of the old Victorian home. The repairs that are needed are new siding, new energy efficient windows, a new roof, and repairs needed to the driveway. Homes first has owned that home since the mid 90's and in that time has helped to rehabilitate over 120 women and 60 children and support them during their transitional life periods. It is my hope that you consider this request. Homes First have been around for 27 years and have noticeably grown in the past 5 years. We hope to be able to keeping our mission relevant and proceed with achieving our goals! Thank you.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Reynierse, Sarah <reysar19@evergreen.edu>