

## **Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency**

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James E. Harbison  
Executive Director

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March 17, 2016

Megan Kurteff Schatz  
1760 Creekside Oaks Drive  
Suite 120  
Sacramento, California 95833

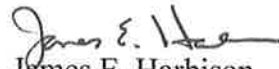
Dear Ms. Schatz,

Thank you for the work your team has provided to analyze our current system for addressing homelessness and making recommendations for improvements. We all agree that ending homelessness must be a priority for our city. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize a few key points made in the report.

- We fully agree that Nashville needs to shift from a collection of programs that serve homeless individuals to more intentionally creating systems to end homelessness. We believe that the creation of a Housing Crisis Resolution System, as recommended, leads us in that direction. However, the report presents a singular approach to the formation, structure, and governance of such a system; we encourage stakeholders to thoroughly vet all options to establish a system that best achieves the goal of ending homelessness while being consistent with federal priorities and requirements.
- MDHA has demonstrated capacity and success in administering federal programs, including those that address homelessness. Our team stands ready and willing to lend its knowledge and experience to this transformation effort.
- We recognize the knowledge and experience of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission (MHC) and commit to strengthening our partnership. Through close collaboration on Consolidated Plan programs and activities that address the challenges of homelessness, we can marry strategies and align funding priorities. We would like to demonstrate this commitment through a formal agreement with MHC that articulates our respective roles in creating and supporting the best structure for our community.
- The final decision regarding the Continuum of Care's (CoC) governance structure and the designation of a lead agency rests solely with the CoC membership, which should have ample opportunity to consider and discuss the merits of any proposal.

We appreciate this opportunity to evaluate the existing homeless system and are committed to working with MHC and all stakeholders on developing an effective strategy that is feasible and practical to achieve.

Sincerely,



James E. Harbison  
Executive Director

cc: Ralph Mosely, Chair, MDHA Board of Commissioners  
Angela Hubbard, Director of Community Development, MDHA  
Will Connelly, Executive Director, MHC  
Erik Cole, Mayor's Office