

July 13, 2019

Ms. Mary Bair
Multi-Family Program Director
Montana Board of Housing
PO Box 200528
Helena, MT 59620-2840

Dear Ms. Bair:

As Mayor of Billings, Montana, this letter is to display my strong support regarding the application and need for an allocation of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to help with the development of the **MRM Unified Campus** project in Billings, MT

Montana Rescue Mission, in conjunction with Mountain Plains Equity Group, Inc., is in the process of completing an application to the Montana Board of Housing for an allocation of LIHTC. If successful in this application, the Housing Tax Credits will help to finance the development of a 166-bed homeless shelter, 29 affordable apartment units and additional supportive service and amenity space. The development will be located at approximately 2822 Minnesota Ave and will bring the community's Men's Shelter and the Women and Family Shelter under one roof.

The **MRM Unified Campus** will provide a unique opportunity for the City of Billings to address the ever-expanding homeless situation in our community. In addition to the new 166-bed homeless shelter the campus will offer 6 transitional supportive housing apartments that will offer opportunities and supportive services to residents that will allow them to move toward independence, and 23 supportive housing apartments. All 29 apartments will be subject to rent and income restrictions, ensuring affordability. Also located on the campus, a separate building at 21 S. 29th Street will undergo significant updates to create modern classrooms for job and life-skills training, an exercise facility, a 200 person chapel, counseling and healthcare offices and a childcare space with a secure outdoor playground.

The ability to offer housing, shelter and services to those that need it most is extremely important in helping to distinguish our community. Bringing the **MRM Unified Campus** to Billings will ensure Billings is able to provide a safe place for people to stay, whether it be for a single night in one of the 166 shelter beds, or for several months in one of the 29 Mission Apartments.

It is my sincere desire that **MRM Unified Campus** be seriously considered for an allocation of LIHTC to help finance the development of the project. This thoughtful approach and creation of a “full service” campus will be instrumental in breaking the cycle of homelessness in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Cole
Mayor

Kendra Shaw, Council Member

Mike Yakawich, Council Member

Roy Neese, Council Member

Frank Ewalt, Council Member

Danny Choriki, Council Member

Denise Joy, Council Member

Pam Purinton, Council Member

Penny Ronning, Council Member

Mike Boyett, Council Member

Shaun Brown, Council Member