Ward\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Economic Development Corporation 213/ 747-1188 - voice

PO Box 7231 – Los Angeles, CA 90007 213/ 747-1975 - fax

Ward-edc.org - website

jdupontwalker.com - email

December 28, 2021

Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, PhD

President & CEO

St. Joseph Center

Venice, CA 90291

RE: Support of St. Joseph Center Encampment Resolution Grant

Dear Dr. Adams Kellum:

In this season of recommitment, WEDC (Ward Economic Development Corp.) is humbled to “pen” this letter in support of St. Joseph Center Encampment Resolution Grant application.

St. Joseph Center has developed a program to address vehicular homelessness in Service Planning Area (“SPA) 6 in South Los Angeles County. The goal of this grant is to engage residents living in RV's and other types of vehicles along Grand Avenue in Council District 9 and enroll them in case management services to remove barriers that prevent them from accessing permanent housing. By pairing housing vouchers to this program, we anticipate that more people will be willing to relinquish their RV and move indoors. St. Joseph Center provides needs assessments, outreach and engagement, case management, rapid re-housing assistance, mental health and substance abuse assessment and treatment, transportation assistance and permanent housing placement. The project will encourage community revitalization and create vibrant public spaces for residents through strategic and unique partnerships with the City, its stakeholders, medical centers, local business, and community groups.

WEDC has a 34-year history of building over 250 units of affordable housing, initiating services when this type of engagement with residents was not funded, and empowering residents to act for the larger good. Our legacy includes inspiring LA’s first winter shelter in the 1980s when skid row residents were literally freezing to death outside city hall. As we prepare to open King Solomon’s Village, we are excited about our partnership with St. Joseph Center to provide supportive and targeted housing options in permanent supportive housing for Veterans, independent living for Elders, and second-chance living quarters for those re-grouping to further their life’s plans. Ultimately, together, we can help to stabilize lives, thus communities, and create a city where everyone can realize his/her dream

We would like to take this opportunity to commend SJC in its commitment and efforts to develop creative outreach and housing solutions supporting those most in need. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 213-747-1188 – office of 213-494-9493 – via text.

In the Struggle,

WARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

By Its President

J Dupont-Walker\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker