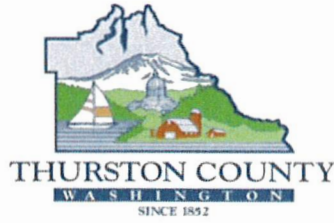


From the Offices of

Mayor Andy Ryder



Board Chair Tye Menser



Mayor Cheryl Selby



Mayor Pete Kmet



November 23, 2021

Port of Olympia Commissioners
606 Columbia St NW, Ste 300
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Port Commissioners:

Thank you for your recent decision to reconsider moving ahead with pursuing the purchase of the OYO Hotel, to be used for low-income senior housing in partnership with the Housing Authority of Thurston County (HATC). As elected leaders in our region, we encourage you to actively pursue the application with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and expedite the transaction, to begin quickly housing our population most in-need: our seniors.

As housing issues and homelessness have exploded in Thurston County, it is our seniors who have been most impacted by lack of affordable housing and increasing housing costs. The most recent Point-In-Time homeless census showed the average age of people on our streets is over 50, and demographic data trends show that this number is rising. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the already-troubling housing emergency, and this project could provide much-needed relief. Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and the County are actively pursuing regional solutions to our housing crisis, together, through the Regional Housing Council. The Port's participation in finding creative solutions in this manner would be warmly welcomed.

We believe this proposed sale/lease makes good economic sense, and would bring great overall value to the community. Rep. Marilyn Strickland is actively engaged with the Federal Aviation Administration to overcome federal administrative obstacles to the plan. We ask you to work to find a path forward for the Port for this project, and stand ready to support you in your efforts in any way possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Mayor Andy Ryder
City of Lacey

Mayor Cheryl Selby
City of Olympia

Mayor Pete Kmet
City of Tumwater

Comm. Tye Menser, chair
Thurston County