



Planning Commission
22 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701

SUBJECT: Support for Density Bonus Agreement Application No. 2022-01

Dear Planning Commission,

On behalf of Mariposa Women and Family Center, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for WISEPlace and its efforts to develop permanent supportive housing for women experiencing homelessness, some of Orange County's most vulnerable citizens for whom there has been a longstanding housing shortage.

As active members of the community, Mariposa Women and Family Center are pleased to support this solution to ending homelessness through this development and wrap around services provided by WISEPlace. Mariposa has had a valued partnership with WISEPlace for many years and we are impressed with their demonstration of trauma informed care for a vulnerable population.

WISEPlace is the only nonprofit in Orange County who is solely focused on the unmet needs of this vulnerable population (unaccompanied women.) One in three women make up this part of the homeless population with over 40% survivors of domestic violence. This population of women endure high rates of first-time homelessness, longer spells of homelessness, and higher barriers in accessing stable housing. Unaccompanied women also report extremely high incidence of trauma—whether physical, sexual, or psychological in nature—that is compounded by their ongoing houselessness. The opportunity to create options for women on this site with so many community amenities will provide a safe home for women for future generations.

We are pleased to see the groundwork that has gone into exploring the existing WISEPlace location. Creating permanent housing for vulnerable women will create an important solution that has never been specifically addressed in Orange County. A place where women can live with support services to address their disabling conditions will create a permanent stable environment where they can thrive.

This opportunity to provide affordable housing at this existing location can create a welcome solution to a growing community need. I am pleased to provide support and respectfully ask for your consideration.

Thank you for all you do in our community,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Driver', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Krista Driver
President & CEO