



February 29, 2008

Office of the  
Executive Vice President

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The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

On behalf of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), I am pleased to support the City of Portland's Tamarack Veterans Housing project request, an affordable housing project for homeless veterans in Portland's North Macadam Urban Renewal Area

As you know, over 1500 veterans in the Portland area are homeless. The building of permanent affordable housing will provide veterans with the necessary support to assist in their transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency and independence. The 210 unit project allows veterans access to permanent housing and nearby services. The project is in close proximity to the Portland VA Medical Center (VAMC), which provides comprehensive medical and mental health services as the VA's quaternary referral center for Oregon, Southern Washington, and parts of Idaho.

OHSU faculty physicians, residents, and interns help staff the VAMC and share the goal of ensuring the best care for our nation's veterans. Permanent housing is a critical linkage in that provision of care. We are also committed to serving the local community and this project addresses an important unmet community need.

I appreciate your consideration of this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Steven D. Stadum'.

Steven D. Stadum  
Executive Vice President

# Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans

## PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Block 49 is a mixed used development in Portland's emerging South Waterfront Development that will contain ground floor retail, office space and affordable apartment units. The City, working with the Veterans Administration, plans to set aside 21 as supportive housing for veterans. The remaining units will be affordable housing and marketed to veterans. This is the first project of its type in the nation and would be a model for future affordable housing projects for homeless veterans.



## PROJECT SCOPE:

Of the 210 affordable housing units, 21 will be set aside as supportive housing for homeless veterans. With federal support an additional 21 units will be permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless veterans.

The location is ideal as Block 49 is located directly on the streetcar line and close to the tram that links the neighborhood with OHSU and the VA Hospital. Additionally, the Portland VA Hospital will be co-locating some veterans services at Block 49 to better serve the homeless veteran population.

### HOMELESS VETERANS

Portland has a significant need for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans

- 1,856 estimated homeless veterans
- A gap of 1,413 beds for homeless veterans
- A growing number of homeless veterans are women with children and seniors with disabilities.
- Many veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering from conditions putting them at greater risk for homelessness

## DEVELOPMENT COSTS

Project costs are dependent on the overall size of the project. The City of Portland is requesting assistance in working with the VA to use existing funds for this project.

The project is scalable but a minimum of 21 and up to 42 HUD/VASH vouchers and \$2 million in HUD – EDI funds would allow the City, PDC and their partners to provide additional housing for homeless veterans and the supportive services they need to be stable and successful.