

Planning, Housing, and Community Development
111 S Cherry Street Suite 2000
Olathe, Kansas 66061



November 14, 2023

Michael Wilkes
City of Olathe
100 E Santa Fe Street
Olathe, KS 66061

Dear Michael:

This letter is regarding the partnership between Johnson County and the City of Olathe for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds for the Pathway (Pathway) at Heritage Park Neighborhood project. As you know, Habitat for Humanity is developing this affordable housing in Olathe utilizing a land-trust model that also provides services for first-time home buyers. Specifically, I am writing about the use of up to one million dollars of Olathe-designated HOME funds for the Pathway project.

Based on previous agreements between the County and Olathe, the County understands that the authority for use of Olathe-designated HOME funds resides with the County. Specifically, Article VI.B. of the 2004 Cooperation Agreement states that "the COUNTY has ultimate responsibility for selecting activities under the CDBG and HOME Program."

First, the County has evaluated the relevant agreements and regulations and has determined that Pathway qualifies as an appropriate use of HOME funds.

Second, given the magnitude and uniqueness of the Pathway project, the County believes the most prudent path forward is to have the Olathe City Council review and confirm support for the use of Olathe HOME funds for Pathway. The fact that these funds are designated for the City of Olathe underscores that obtaining Olathe City Council's approval is prudent. Please note that final action will also be brought before the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

We are committed to working with Olathe to clarify the decision making and communication process for future expenditures of Olathe-designated HOME funds. I look forward to our continued partnership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay C. Leipzig".

Jay C. Leipzig
Director Planning, Housing and Community Development

cc: Heather McNeive, Director of Housing Services
Joe Connor, Assistant County Manager