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To: Mr. Edward R. Simms
Team leader
Community Development Administration
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
7800 Harkins Road
Lanham, Greenbelt, MD 20706

Date: 11/30/2020

From: Kathy Burk
Executive Director
BWMC Foundation
300 Hospital Drive, Suite 231
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Re: Support Letter

Dear Mr. Simms:

I am writing this letter to support the grant application associated with the project of “Restoring Human Dignity” that is being proposed by Orpe Human Rights Advocates, should it be funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

As an anchor institution in Northern Anne Arundel County, we take seriously the charge of keeping our community healthy—both inside and outside our hospital’s walls. We are committed to offering initiatives, programs and services that help address social determinants of health, including food insecurity, addiction, and education/workforce development.

The COVID-19 health crisis is severely impacting under-privileged communities and communities of color. We continue to take steps as an organization to do our part in helping these communities, with special initiatives like our produce distribution program, patient discharge kits to high-risk COVID-19 patients returning home, and re-stocking our indigent supply closet with seasonally-appropriate clothing. We have relied on community partners to help in these endeavors; Orpe Human Rights Advocacy has been one such partner, providing facemasks for us to distribute to patients who need them, as well as our at-risk front-line employees.

The BWMC Foundation applauds Orpe’s mission and commitment to changing the outcomes of our neighbors suffering from homelessness, addiction, and unemployment. Orpe’s advocacy, programs, and services are designed to empower, lift people out of poverty, and transform them

to self-sufficiency, and the BWMC Foundation will do what we can to appropriately support these efforts.

Your support of this grant will help ensure that homeless, at risk-homeless, veterans, and people with addiction can benefit from the training and education and coordinated supportive and rehabilitation programs associated with the Project of "Restoring Human Dignity" that is being promoted by Orpe Human Rights Advocates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Burk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" being more prominent than the last name "Burk".

Kathy Burk
Executive Director
BWMC Foundation