

JOHN A. YARMUTH
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November 24, 2009

Secretary Shaun Donovan
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Louisville Metro Housing Authority's (LMHA) Fiscal Year 2009 HOPE VI Revitalization application for the Sheppard Square Public Housing development in the Smoketown Neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky.

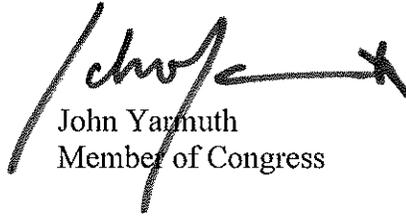
I strongly encouraged LMHA to submit this application because I am confident that they will be successful as the Master Developer for the Sheppard Square Revitalization Plan, which includes one-for-one replacement of all public housing units. The Revitalization Plan consists of 465 units, including a mix of single-family homes, semi-detached and row townhouses, and multi-family apartment buildings designed to complement the architecture in the Smoketown neighborhood. Off-site development consists of 54 units in the Downtown Family Scholar House, as well as 101 scattered-site, single-family homes to be mixed in with existing homes within ten neighborhoods. These established neighborhoods are either within a 3-mile radius of the existing development or located outside areas of minority concentration. I am especially excited about LMHA's housing partnership with Family Scholar House, the region's only organization with a mission of ending the cycle of poverty by giving single-parent students the affordable housing and support they need to earn a four-year college degree.

This Revitalization Plan will become a model for other cities just as Louisville's award winning HOPE VI Revitalizations are at Park DuValle and Liberty Green. In addition, LMHA has an exemplary track record for obligating and expending grant funds ahead of the timelines required by statute. In fact, LMHA has already obligated 70 percent and expended 44 percent of the \$14 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds it was awarded in February 2009.

As detailed in the application, one of the key elements of the Revitalization is the rehabilitation of the Old Presbyterian Community Center where a young Cassius Clay, now known globally as Muhammad Ali, began his boxing training. This historically significant site will be rehabilitated and expanded into community space and housing targeted for elderly and disabled veterans.

I, therefore, am pleased to offer my strong support for this important Revitalization application for the city of Louisville. I appreciate your attention to this request – and hope you will not hesitate to contact me if there is any further information you require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Yarmuth', with a horizontal line extending to the right and ending in a small cross-like flourish.

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress