



## City of Columbia

*"One Mission ■ One Message ■ One Columbia"*

Community Development  
1225 Lady Street / PO Box 147 / Columbia, SC 29217  
(803) 545-3767 / FAX (803) 545-3772

March 29, 2012

Mr. Gilbert Walker, Executive Director  
Columbia Housing Authority  
1917 Harden Street  
Columbia, SC 29204

Reference: East Central 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Application

Dear Mr. Walker:

We are aware that the Columbia Housing Authority intends to submit an application for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant for the East Central area of downtown Columbia, which includes Allen Benedict Court, Gonzales Gardens, and the surrounding neighborhoods of Edgewood, Waverly, and Lyons Street. We also understand that the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative seeks to achieve comprehensive neighborhood transformation by leveraging local partnerships and investment in affordable housing, high-quality education opportunities, public health and safety, well-functioning community services, increased mobility, and improved access to jobs.

As you know, the City of Columbia Community Development Department has been involved in transformative activities in these neighborhoods for many years through our housing development and neighborhood revitalization efforts. Our work dovetails with the Choice Neighborhoods program goals because we strive to improve the overall quality of life through development of sustainable communities.

We support your application and are proud to partner with the Columbia Housing Authority on this important initiative.

We commit to providing an in-kind contribution worth \$4,130 to support the FY 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant for the transformation of Allen Benedict Court, Gonzales Gardens and the surrounding areas. The value and nature of this commitment is as follows:

- *Salary of the Community Investment Manager--\$26.44 x 6 hours x 18 months= \$2,855.20; Staff Travel \$75.00; Administrative Support \$250.00 Miscellaneous Supplies \$50.00; Facility per meeting at \$50.00 x 18 months= \$900.00*

We look forward to the success of the application, and to working with you to plan a brighter future for East Central Columbia.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Livingston  
Director, Community Development