



September 6, 2022

Lake County CDBG
Housing and Community Development Commission
500 W. Winchester Rd.
Libertyville, IL 60048

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to request a waiver of the HUD conflict of interest statement regarding a staff member of a CDBG funded organization (Grantee) to be allowed to purchase property that was rehabbed by the grantee organization using Lake County CDBG funds.

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a grantee of Lake County CDBG and builds affordable housing units for local families while helping put blighted properties back on the tax rolls. One of our staff members, Jimmy Ollie, who resides at 10022 W. Logan Ct., Zion, IL, is interested in purchasing the property that YCC is about to complete at 37896 New York Avenue, Beach Park, IL 60087.

Jimmy is YCC's Construction Supervisor and has been employed by YCC for 3 years. Jimmy is a YCC Alumni who graduated from our program in 2010. He returned to YCC in 2019 and began his employment as a member of our Full-Year Construction Crew, being promoted to the staff position of Construction Supervisor in 2020.

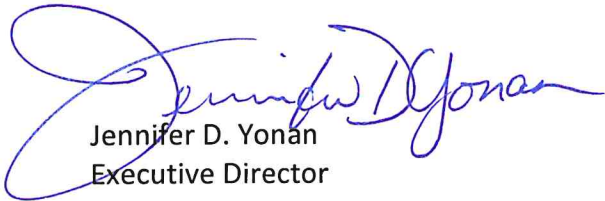
As the Construction Supervisor, Jimmy is responsible for training youth ages 16 -24 years in the National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) modules, providing training and oversight during their learning process and ensuring both curriculum and hands-on learning occurs. He is responsible for assisting in the building and renovation of affordable housing projects as part of the YouthBuild program and ensuring that members are properly supervised and instructed while onsite. Jimmy has no role in CDBG or YCC funding decisions.

Jimmy is one of YCC greatest success stories (see below) and has worked hard to get to where he is today. He is truly a role model for the youth in our program and stands as an example of true-life transformation. Jimmy's desire to provide a safe, stable home to raise his two children as a first-time home buyer is commendable.

YCC respectfully requests the Lake County Housing and Community Development Commission waive the conflict of interest and allow Jimmy Ollie the opportunity to pursue the purchase of 37896 New York Ave. in Beach Park, IL.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer D. Yonan
Executive Director

Jimmy Ollie

"He handed me a hammer and it changed my life".

Jimmy came to YCC in 2010. He had been in a gang, served time in jail, was using drugs, had been shot and stabbed.

The mother of his children told him he needed to come to YCC to change his life, so he did. During his time in the program, he realized that people believed in him, trusted him and saw a leader in him. He realized he loves construction. Jimmy told our board members, *"One day the construction Manager handed me a hammer and it changed my life."*

Today, Jimmy a member of the YCC staff and serves as our Construction Trainer, teaching other young people valuable construction skills and providing opportunities for a brighter future.

