

CITY OF ARVADA

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FACSIMILE: 720-898-7515 ▲ TDD: 720-898-7869

PHONE: 720-898-7500

January 6, 2014

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0606

Dear Senator Bennet:

The members of the Arvada City Council and the Arvada Housing Authority are concerned that recent attempts to address our nation's budget deficit have begun to disproportionately hurt vulnerable families and neighborhoods in our community. While we certainly recognize the need to get our fiscal house in order, we also believe we should not continue to cut vital federal spending that provides crucial support to families with children, seniors, the disabled and veterans within safe and stable neighborhoods. For this reason, we are asking you to support increased Federal funding levels for 2014 that are absolutely critical to avoid diminishing our community's efforts to address crucial citizen needs and to effectively serve those at risk.

Our housing authority continues its efforts to maintain efficient and effective operation of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. However, current funding levels are making this effort nearly impossible. Most notably, administration funding of our vitally important Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program was only provided for 2013 at 67 cents on the dollar from what should be provided to effectively manage this program. The cost of running this program continues to increase with no significant regulatory relief to help mitigate these low funding levels.

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) in our city has provided flexible targeted funding crucial to fostering partnerships with the business and nonprofit sector to address critical infrastructure and housing needs in our older neighborhoods. However, funding levels for CDBG have been in decline, with no relief in sight, while community needs have increased.

No business can provide the level of performance expected for any period of time while operating with such reductions in funding. Our citizens expect local jurisdictions to continue to serve its constituents competently and cost effectively. Decent, safe and affordable housing in stable neighborhoods is important to everyone and vital to our ability to remain an economically and culturally diverse community.

Please help ensure that affordable housing and community development programs are properly funded by rejecting funding levels provided in 2013 and making it a priority to provide funding levels in 2014 that are needed in order to serve those in need of crucial public help.

Respectfully,



Marc Williams, Mayor



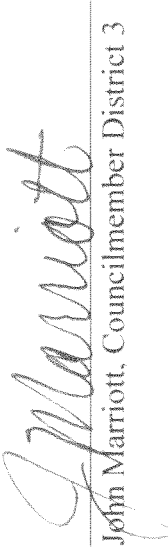
Mark McGoff, Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember District 2



Don Allard, Councilmember At-Large



Bob Fifer, Councilmember At-Large



John Marriott, Councilmember District 3



Bob Dyer, Councilmember District 4

City of Arvada Council Members