<Insert Date>

Columbus City Council
90 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Support for Affordable Housing—Bonham Pointe Apartments

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to voice support for the proposed Bonham Pointe Apartments located at 999 Bonham Avenue in South Linden. Columbus is experiencing an extreme shortage of affordable housing, and with building costs and rents outpacing income growth, this problem will worsen without developments like Bonham Pointe.

This development will feature 204 units, affordable to families making 60% or less of Area Median Income. This means these units will be eligible to over 55% of Linden residents and 68% of renters within Linden. In addition to providing much needed affordable housing, this mixed-use community will clean up a blighted site, feature a retail component, incorporate a dedicated job training and placement center, and offer quality amenities—including a pool, playground, dog park, and community building with on-site management and maintenance. In addition, each unit will feature high-speed (low-cost) wireless internet to help bridge the digital divide.

In addition, this project will help re-populate a neighborhood that has experienced substantial de-population. In 1960 this census tract had 5,437 residents. The most recent numbers available show just 1,973 people live in the same area. It’s time to re-build the strength and vitality of South Linden by increasing the housing supply and bringing more residents to the neighborhood.

**Census Tract 15 – South Linden**
**Year Population**
2019 1,973
2010 2,031
2000 2,223
1980 3,339
1960 5,437

Moreover, this affordable housing development is aligned with the recent One Linden plan, funded by the City of Columbus and created with extensive resident input and support over 18 months. Of the 10 Big Ideas in the One Linden plan, this project directly addresses the following:

* Stabilize & Expand Housing Options
* Connect Residents to Employment
* Reduce Crime & Improve Perception
* Support Entrepreneurs & Develop Business
* Build Community Investment

Because this project provides more affordable housing, helps repopulate South Linden, and meets many of the community’s goals outlined in the One Linden Plan, I strongly encourage City Council to approve the required zoning changes to allow this development to move forward. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

<insert name>