

June 1, 2020

Mr. Dan Serrano, Chair
Environmental Planning Committee
City of Albuquerque
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Project 2020-003461

Dear Mr. Serrano

I am writing to show my support of the request from Saranam, LLC, for development of a second site in Northwest Albuquerque.

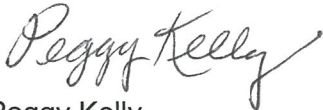
I learned of Saranam several years ago when I was asked by a friend to volunteer in preparing an apartment for a family who was accepted in this program. I have volunteered in many programs, and I found Saranam to be one of the most impactful, successful non-profit programs of which I have been a part. Carefully screened clients are given the opportunity to live in a safe home, focus on their education, learn life skills, and become self-sufficient members of our community. Their success is clear: 80% of the families successfully exit their two-year program completely self-sufficient.

The need for more housing is crucial. There are more applicants than there are apartments. Adding a new site will allow for more families in need to receive the opportunity to become self-sufficient. It is sad to think that because of limited space, deserving applicants are unable to be accepted into this wonderful program.

Be assured, Saranam sees safety as the highest priority. Clients are rigorously screened before being accepted into the program, and are committed to a safe environment for their families. They and their precious children would be a positive addition to the Taylor Ranch community.

I strongly urge the Environmental Planning Committee to vote in favor of the amendment of the existing site plan. Supporting this is a support for those who are in need, want to better their lives and are taking the positive step to become contributing members of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Kelly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peggy Kelly

505-350-7814

CC: Tracy Weaver, Saranam Executive Director

Charles & Judy Ofelt
2227 Cebolla Creek Way NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
505-296-7728

June 1, 2020

Mr. Dan Serrano, Chair
Environmental Planning Commission
City of Albuquerque
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Project 2020-003461

Dear Mr. Serrano:

We are writing to express our support for the request from Saranam, LLC for development of a second location, in Northwest Albuquerque.

Families are the most important resource any city has. As chair of the Rotary Del Norte Foundation over a three year period, Charlie Ofelt had the opportunity to direct and perform due diligence on over 140 charitable not-for-profit organizations in our city as part of our annual grant-making program. Saranam, LLC consistently scored in the top 10 every year. They know their stuff. They have a focused and highly successful program of assisting homeless or soon to be homeless families to become stable family units.

Judy and Charlie have volunteered with programs supporting recovery efforts for homeless individuals in Albuquerque. We are very familiar with the multiple issues involved. It is extremely difficult to keep a homeless family together once that family has lost housing and hope. Saranam, LLC has a consistent and exemplary 10 plus year record of successfully helping homeless families, both parents and children, learn the skills necessary to cope with our complex society and all its challenges. By and large, their program participants leave with a roof over their heads and a job. Very few programs can say that.

Programs like Saranam's are essential, and the need is larger than ever given the current pandemic. The West Side does not have anything like Saranam to support our communities. Just like the rest of the city, we have homeless families desperate for a helping hand and Saranam's proposed second location is both a needed and a welcome asset for this side of town.

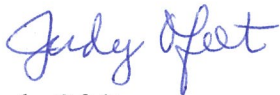
We used to live on the East Side, in the heights. Having been victims of the wave of crime endemic to that part the city, we relocated to the West Side three years ago. We would welcome Saranam as a neighbor, knowing that they are rigorous in their evaluation of potential clients. Their clients do not pose a threat to us or to their neighbors. Those who might object to the project may well base their concerns on stereotypes rather than on the performance based facts of Saranam's success. The city runs homeless shelters which create a terrible image for what helping the homeless can look like. Saranam is nothing like that. Nothing at all.

We are familiar with the site in question. We drive by it regularly. It seems a perfect location for providing a stable living environment for homeless parents and children to grow into cohesive family units. Homeless people do not have to be housed in slum areas. A location that offers aspirations for success will provide a much better chance for those willing to make the effort, the effort that the clients of Saranam must exhibit from day one and throughout their two year stay.

These are not just words. We have donated tens of thousands of dollars to Saranam, LLC to help make this project a reality, including our recent government economic stimulus check. The West Side needs this project and this program.

Mr. Serrano, we respectfully request that the EPC approve the proposed amendment to the existing site plan to allow the Saranam, LLC West Side project to be built.

Very truly yours,



Judy Ofelt



Charles Ofelt

cc: Tracy Weaver, Saranam Executive Director

May 30, 2020

Mr. Dan Serrano, Chair
Environmental Planning Committee
City of Albuquerque
PO Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Project 2020-003461

Dear Mr. Serrano,

I am writing in support of the request from Saranam, LLC for development of a second site in NW Albuquerque.

I have been a financial supporter of Saranam for several years and believe that this unique and comprehensive program makes a lasting contribution in addressing the problem of homelessness.

80% of families exiting the program are self-sufficient and remain that way. Two generations are affected by each case handled by Saranam.

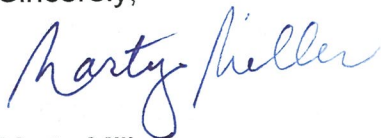
The program always has more applicants than can be accepted. The current crisis will exacerbate this situation.

The Saranam screening process is thorough and the safety of the participants is a priority. This community will be an asset to the neighborhood.

I believe that Saranam has been looking for a second site for some time. I urge the planning committee to act favorably on the amendment to the existing site plan.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Marty Miller

May 30, 2020

Mr. Dan Serrano, Chair

Environmental Planning Committee

City of Albuquerque

P.O. Box 1293

Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Project 2020-00346

Dear Mr. Serrano:

I am writing in support of the request from Saranam, LLC, for development of a second site in Northwest Albuquerque. I have seen the wonderful work this group has done for young women with children that needed homes and a chance to make a living. They have provided a furnished apartment, helped educate the children and given the women a boost to earn their living and provide for their families. This is not a hand-out, but rather a help to make stronger families and give a boost to women's independence.

Saranam is effective and the number of applications for the program have far exceeded the available space each year. With our current crisis wreaking havoc on low-income families the need for their program has never been greater.

The Saranam program is over seen by experts in the fields of child welfare and social welfare. The residents are given strict guide lines as to their seeking education, care for their children and job searches. Saranam's number one priority is safety. Staff ensure that selected families undergo a rigorous vetting process before entering the program and the families in the program are committed to creating a safe nurturing environment for their children. They will prove to be an asset to the Taylor Ranch neighborhood.

I applaud this effort and without reservation, urge the Albuquerque Environmental Planning Committee to act favorable on the amendment of the existing site plan.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean M. Kuhl". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Jean M. Kuhl (505)856-3506