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San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Re: Support 75 Arkansas Street – Student Housing

Dear Commission President Buell and Fellow Commissioners,

On behalf of the San Francisco Housing Action Coalition's 300 business, organization and individual members, I'd like to express our support for the proposed student housing project at 75 Arkansas Street. After reviewing the proposal extensively at our Project Review Committee, we believe the development has many merits and will provide badly needed student housing for California College for the Arts (CCA). The project aligns with our guidelines for well-designed, well-located housing, which we've elaborated on in our Project Review Report Card.

San Francisco has a tremendous student housing shortage, which is making it increasingly difficult for the City's universities to attract and enroll new talent. San Francisco houses over 30 institutions of higher education that enroll more than 80,000 full-time students needing student housing. However, only nine of these schools provide any housing for their population, totaling less than 9,000 beds. There is an estimated 60,000 bed shortfall for students. This means most are forced to compete for housing in the open market, along with families, young adults beginning their professional careers and many others.

The project at 75 Arkansas Street would be one step towards addressing this chronic shortage by providing 228 beds for CCA students within walking distance of the campus. We understand the building would cast a small, additional shadow on Jackson Playground. However, we believe it is insignificant and the benefits this project would deliver outweigh the added shadow. It is also our understanding that Jackson Playground is set to undergo major renovations that will make it an even more attractive place for nearby and visiting residents to attend.

We urge you to support the 75 Arkansas Street proposal. A delay could result in these beds not being delivered until the following year, since the project must be built in accordance with CCA's calendar. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Colen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Colen
Executive Director