



Board of Commissioners
Doug Barnes, *Chair*
Michael Brown, *Vice-Chair*
Susan Palmer
TerryLynn Stewart
John Welch

Executive Director
Stephen J. Norman

January 31, 2017

To All KCHA Employees and Residents:

I know that the recent election and ensuing actions by the new administration have caused great concern and divisiveness in our community.

We need to remember that we live in a country that was founded by immigrants. A country that has grown and prospered through succeeding generations of new families arriving on our shores. Many of them fleeing violence and persecution. All of them seeking freedom and a better life for themselves and their children. The vast majority of people living in this country trace their ancestry back to somewhere else.

Our country believes in equality, in mutual respect and in opportunity for all. These are fundamental American values. Values that we hold to be self evident. Values that we at the Housing Authority believe in.

Our elected officials from Governor Inslee and King County Executive Constantine to the mayors of cities as diverse as Seattle and Burien have all spoken out in support of these values. To quote Executive Constantine *"We do not push children and families into the shadows, and sow fear among our neighbors who may look or speak or pray differently than the majority"*.

The King County Housing Authority will continue to respect diversity. We will stay true to our mission to help the poorest and most vulnerable of our neighbors, to provide a better future for all children and all families, to transform lives.

In the days ahead I believe it is critical that we remember that we are at our best, as an example to the entire world, when we are true to our fundamental values – and those start with mutual respect and dialog.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SJN", written in a cursive style.

Stephen J. Norman
Executive Director