



Family Building Blocks

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AND FAMILIES TOGETHER



May 3, 2023

Joint Ways and Means Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: City of Stayton/FBB, HB 3005

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith and Committee members:



On behalf of Family Building Blocks, I am writing to express support for the City of Stayton's Ida Street Sewer Upsizing Capital funding request. The existing Ida Street sewer line is undersized to properly handle existing capacity and is projected to surcharge manholes during 5-year storm events. The City is actively working to upsize the pipe, however, does not anticipate having sufficient funds for approximately 5 years to complete all necessary upsizing.

As a result, they are faced with an inability to approve any new development that would increase demand on the system. This is preventing development of new Relief Nursery, Doris's Place, to serve vulnerable children and families throughout the Santiam Canyon.



Family Building Blocks is a well-known and effective non-profit organization helping families throughout the region. To better serve children and families in the community, we are looking to build a new facility with five classrooms, play areas, and offices for staff. We have scoured the Canyon for appropriate space and found one empty lot that was suitable for a new build and available for purchase. We have invested considerable funds in designing the facility and performing our due diligence. We were close to finalizing the purchase when we learned about the City's sewer capacity issues and are now at a standstill until the sewer line is upsized or alternative accommodation is made.

The City's funding request of \$2,685,418 will help them complete the necessary upgrades to existing infrastructure and allow for new development to occur, opening multiple areas within the Stayton downtown area to residential, commercial and industrial development or redevelopment that are currently restricted due to the capacity issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrice Altenhofen
Executive Director



