

Andrew Lofton remarks at Friends of Housing Award October 3, 2018

Thank you Lowell, and thank you to Executive Director Kim Herman, Commission Chair Karen Miller, Margret Graham, the award selection committee and everyone at the Washington State Housing Finance Commission for this honor. Meeting the other honorees tonight, and looking at the list of past honorees, I am truly humbled to be considered in the same category. They are people whom I hold in high regard and have the deepest respect for their accomplishments.

I want to thank WSHFC, for their tireless commitment to affordable housing. Their leadership and creativity has demonstrated they are a true partner with the affordable housing community, and it is sincerely appreciated.

I don't have enough time, nor could I remember all the partners that have made this moment possible. Because, as you all know, this work is not done alone; we could not accomplish any of what we are doing without the support of and collaboration with many, many partners. Many of whom are here tonight. I thank all of you...

At SHA we also hold the belief that housing is just the first step – the stability that enables people to pursue a better life and greater self-sufficiency. We work to build communities where people don't just live, but grow. Where seniors feel safe, where youth can pursue their dreams, where families can thrive. That belief is reflected in our mission and in all of our work. So I'd like to thank the more than 500 dedicated and passionate staff at SHA whose work is reflected in this award.

Finally, since I don't have the time to share some of the thousands of individual stories about the difference the affordable housing community and our service partners are making in the lives of people living in SHA-subsidized housing, I will share just one quote from one of our residents, who serve to inspire our work. Autumn, sums it up in her own words: She says "Without the Seattle Housing Authority I don't think I would feel so hopeful for the future right now. I was able to go right back to school. I can work hard and actually see a reward from it instead of working hard and being in the same spot. That's been life-saving for me."

I'm deeply honored to receive this award on behalf of Autumn and her two daughters, our more than

34,000 other tenants, the over 500 members of our hardworking staff at SHA, our many partners and all of you who are here because you care about affordable housing, and dignity and opportunity for everyone. Thank you.