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BURLINGTON CLERK
TREASURER'S OFFICE

Peter Owens

Director

Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO)

City Hall,

149 Church St.

Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Mr. Owens,

Lund has received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the past six years, supporting the provision of affordable, high quality, year-round early education and care for low-income Burlington families. Given our excellent track record for effective management of these funds over the years, our century long commitment to the Burlington community, the recent expansion of our Early Childhood Education Program (LECP), and our strong application for FY14 we were surprised by the CDBG Advisory Board's recent recommendation to zero fund our recent request. Lund values its partnership with and support from the City of Burlington in providing economic opportunity to 'at risk' families. We are concerned that withdrawal of this support publicly signals a break between the City and Lund – a break which would be damaging to Lund and Burlington families.

While we understand that the CDBG Advisory Board's recommendation is firm, we would welcome the opportunity to work with CEDO and City Hall to design a stronger, more transparent process for CDBG resource allocation. Lund is supportive of the FY13 attempts to increase the impact of the scarce Public Service resources. We appreciated the thoughtful changes to the application format for FY14, valuing innovation and expansion among funded public service programs. We also think it is important to continue stimulating discussions for innovations to the funding cycle and process. Parallel to increasing impact in the community, Lund would appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the development and encourage the adoption of a transparent scoring and decision making system that would serve as a grounding principle for the competitive process.

We thank you for your attention to this communication and look forward to continued and growing collaboration surrounding our special partnership that helps Burlington's most vulnerable children and families thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Rachelson
Executive Director

Lisa Pizzagalli
Board Chair

Cc. Honorable Miro Weinberger, Mayor; Carina Driscoll, Assistant to the Mayor for Open Government, Innovation & Mayoral Initiatives; Ms. Marcy Krumbine, Assistant Director, Community Development, CEDO; **Joan Shannon, President, Burlington City Council**

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