On behalf of the Board of Directors of the White Center Community Development Association, we wanted to lend our voices in support of the individuals and families that have been impacted by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout White Center and the County. We hold you in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

WCCDA staff have been asked to track organizing efforts within our community, especially families with elders, individuals and families that are homeless and medically vulnerable residents of White Center. As an organization, we are working closely with Public Health officials and local County departments to ensure current information is distributed on our website in addition to sharing information in different languages as it becomes available. WCCDA office hours will remain the same at this time. Staff has been receiving calls and inquiries and we are directing people to Sea/King County Public health websites for specific information.

We look to local King County departments to work directly with WCCDA and other community groups and organizations, especially culturally relevant/culturally specific agencies to find opportunities needed to strengthen infrastructures that ensure people are safe in our communities. We are well aware of the concerns raised by the community regarding the quarantine site being placed in White Center. Although we understand that WCCDA staff were not consulted in this decision, we are hopeful that the trusting relationships that have been built and the integrity of the community is utilized with the highest respect deserved by the White Center community. As neighboring communities are also under scrutiny for the Coronavirus, we are urging King County and Local Government(s) to include leadership from the community in decision making moving forward in this issue.

It is important to note that people are NOT at risk because of their race, nationality, or ethnicity. Having Asian ancestry—or any other ancestry—does not place a person at higher risk for COVID-19. In addition, wearing a mask does not mean a person is ill. Many people wear masks to avoid pollen, air pollution, and other cultural reasons. We are asking that all information released must be inclusive of everyone by sharing accurate information with community members. Additional anti-stigma resources can be found here.

White Center is a special place for all of us. As residents of this community, our ultimate goal through this time is that families are safe and that culturally relevant care is provided with humanity for all. We look for compassion in our partnerships with systems that impact lives in our community. The WCCDA Board and staff believe that if we remain accountable in our actions it’s because we understand community voice and leadership in decisions that impact the lives of people that live in White Center. This is what is truly needed to achieve equity in our work throughout our community.

In solidarity,

Tanya Powers/WCCDA Board Chair

