

## **CITY OF LANDER, WYOMING**

## **OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

April 9, 2025

John Wendling Wyoming Business Council 214 W 15th Street Cheyenne WY 82001

by email to john.wendling@wyo.gov

The City of Lander requests to terminate the 2022 BRC grant agreement in the amount of \$889,105.00 for the Table Mountain Living Community Infrastructure. During the Council work session on February 25, 2025, there was consensus among the Council not to fund the construction of the facility in the 2025-26 budget. This determination is not based on the recognized need for such a facility - but on the lack of statutory authority to operate Table Mountain Living Community as envisioned, and the detrimental changes in possible funding opportunities as described below.

- In the summer of 2024, it was determined that the Lander Housing Authority (designated operator by City resolution) did not have statutory authority to operate an Assisted Living/Memory Care facility unless it was designated for 100% low-income purposes per WSS 15-10-102.
- The City Council and Housing Authority are determined to have these healthcare services available to citizens at all income levels.
- Our state and local governments will realize severe multi-year budget cuts starting in FY 2025-26 due to the tax relief bills and other legislation recently passed this session.
- It is likely that existing local government services will be cut in the next few years due to the recently passed property tax cut initiatives. It is not prudent to add new services that require large capital construction costs at the same time.
- The ARPA funding, so readily available in recent years, has run its course with very few grants and low interest loan opportunities for capital construction projects being available in the near future.
- This project was bid in Dec 2024 and the final project costs currently used for budgeting and fundraising will have to be increased for additional construction funding due to inflation.
- Council and staff voiced that neither a revenue bond issue nor a special purpose tax is likely to pass considering the overwhelming citizen/legislative support of the recent taxpayer cuts at the state and local level.

## THE REAL WEST

The City of Lander regrettably requests to terminate the 2022 agreement. Thank you for your attention to this matter. The City of Lander wholeheartedly supports WBC programs and hopes that the released funds can be used for other worthy BRC approved projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Missy White, Mayor

cc: Patrick Edwards by email to patrick.edwards@wyo.gov

Noelle Reed by email to noelle.reed@wyo.gov