



**NM Office of African American Affairs**  
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**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**Yvette R. Kaufman-Bell**  
Executive Director

September 13, 2018

Joan Costello, Executive Director  
Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Dear Ms. Costello,

As the Executive Director of the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs, I am writing to express support for the Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity Beloved Community initiative.

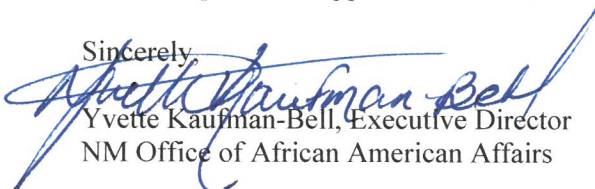
Homeownership in the Black community is a priority for OAAA, in fact, the most glaring inequity we see between Blacks and other New Mexico populations is in home ownership, with Blacks being 20-30% less likely to own a home than any other group, regardless of relative income and poverty levels. Through the Economic Empowerment Series the OAAA provides workshops to target critical areas for economic empowerment and I hope to invite Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity to present in this series.

I understand that the Beloved Community initiative was established by Habitat for Humanity in partnership with The King Center's MLK 50 Forward challenge, to bring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of access, equality and opportunity for all into action through a series of projects including the construction of new affordable homes, critical home repairs and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. The OAAA would like to take part in sharing information about the construction of a Beloved Community House in Albuquerque and help promote the creation of a network to reach further into Albuquerque's low-income communities of color to engage more families in the process of becoming Habitat homeowners. Please email information regarding Beloved Community meetings and events and, when possible, the OAAA will share announcements and posts with our constituency via our website, social media, and email, to inform and engage them in volunteering, donating, and applying for a Habitat for Humanity home.

Due to time constraints, the OAAA's direct participation with this years Beloved Community initiative will be limited, I hope to represent the OAAA at some of the Beloved Community events and leave the door open for future opportunities.

Many thanks to the volunteers, supporters and staff of Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity for changing the lives of low-income families in Bernalillo County through homeownership. The OAAA is proud to support the Beloved Community initiative.

Sincerely,

  
Yvette Kaufman-Bell, Executive Director  
NM Office of African American Affairs

*"To study, identify, and provide solutions to issues of concern relevant to the African American community."*