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State Honors Paul Lambros with *Friend of Housing* Award

Tacoma, Wash. — On Oct. 20, Plymouth Housing Group of Seattle Executive Director Paul Lambros received a *Friend of Housing* Award before an audience of 350 colleagues. Lambros was honored by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission for his outstanding service in expanding affordable housing resources for Washington’s low-income residents.

The Commission presented seven awards total at its annual *Friend of Housing* Award Ceremony at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. This event was part of the 2010 Housing Washington conference on affordable housing.

“Paul is a tireless advocate for housing the homeless and the very-low income. In fact, for many of us, Paul symbolizes housing for the homeless,” said Kim Herman, executive director of The Commission. “He is viewed by the Seattle area affordable housing community as a visionary leader whose organization is transformative in the communities it serves and in the lives of its residents. We are delighted to honor him with the statewide recognition he deserves.”

Owing to Paul’s capable leadership and philosophy that homelessness can be solved, very diverse groups are now supporting efforts to provide affordable and supportive housing for previously homeless individuals.

Even through the downturn in the economy, Plymouth Housing Group has continued to be expansive in serving the homeless and the very low-income population. During this time when charitable giving has been much reduced, the contributions to Plymouth Housing have remained constant. Its annual “Key to Hope” luncheon, which attracts impressive keynote speakers from Martin Sheen to Maya Angelou, is exceedingly well attended.

And the funds raised directly serve its purpose. Plymouth Housing owns and manages 12 buildings that provide housing to nearly 1,000 residents in downtown Seattle and provides supportive programs to ensure that residents achieve stable lives in permanent housing.

Lambros has been an important player in King County in the federal initiative known as “The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness”, as well as in the Seattle Housing First Initiative and the Seattle Housing Levy. He is also a strong advocate for affordable housing legislation. Most recently he was asked by U.S. Senator Patty Murray to testify before the Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development on the need for the federal government to fund more permanent housing for homeless veterans.

“Paul is a unique and powerful voice in the affordable housing arena both in the Seattle area and nationally,” said Jennifer Ernst, vice president and chief information officer at Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle who nominated Lambros for the award.

Washington State Housing Finance Commission

Washington State Housing Finance Commission is a publicly accountable, self-supporting agency dedicated to increasing housing access and affordability and to expanding the availability of quality community services for Washington state residents.

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