



Dear Business Record of Influence Selection Committee:

I write with enthusiastic support for the nomination of Vanessa Baker-Latimer for this year's Women of Influence award.

For the past 33 years, Vanessa has served as the Housing Coordinator for the City of Ames. In this capacity, she has played a significant role in aiding some of the community's neediest families. She is the "go to" person for those needing assistance programs – all of which she has helped develop. Vanessa has overseen rental assistance, first-time home buyers, Section 8 HUD housing, neighborhood improvement grants, and housing rehabilitation.

In all of these, Vanessa has masterminded the City's relationships with the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department through Community Development Block Grant funding, Story County affordable housing programs, the State of Iowa Finance Authority, and Central Iowa's Habitat for Humanity. During the community's unfortunate flood events, she has been front and center in working with families for FEMA buy-out programs.

In addition, Vanessa has instituted and taught first-time home owner classes for those starting out on their new venture in real estate.

While Vanessa has led the City and the community through a variety of challenging housing needs, she has always kept the best interests of the recipients of her services in mind. In their eyes, Vanessa is, indeed, the "go to" person.

Please give Vanessa top consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ann H. Campbell
Mayor