

August 11, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) has been exploring potential rehabilitation and redevelopment of Glendale Townhomes located in Southeast Minneapolis in and around 27th Avenue and Essex St. on the streets of St. Mary, St. Mary's Place, Delaware, Williams, Essex and 27th Avenue. It includes 184 homes, roughly 600 residents, with approximately 300 children, as well as green space, community gardens and a community center in a close knit community of working class, middle to lower income families. It is located within the ward I represent and all the residents who live in it are my constituents. Their present and future well-being is of great concern to me.

Since possible development plans have been revealed and studied, residents have organized a Defend Glendale Campaign that has been meeting regularly and working hard to bring resident concerns forward. Fears related to the demolition of all the buildings, dislocation of residents, the loss of public affordable housing, and the construction of high density expensive apartments, as well as the destruction of a community, privatization of public property and gentrification have been discussed and debated throughout the community and larger neighborhood.

I support Defend Glendale's efforts to have their homes repaired and improved with no displacement and no gentrification. Glendale Townhomes provide medium density, family-oriented housing with connected services at the child development facility and park located adjacent to the townhomes. It offers a promising model worthy of preservation and investment that has served its residents and the neighboring community well for decades and could for many more.

Over the past year, I have worked with the Defend Glendale Campaign and the broader Prospect Park community, and have seen firsthand the growing concerns and turmoil the potential redevelopment created. I remain committed to insuring that any approved plan serves the needs of the current community members and is broadly supported by the people I represent. When the MPHA approached the city about becoming a partner and leading a redevelopment plan, it was evident to me that the MPHA had not been successful in creating a consensus plan for the future of the community. Still, a good deal of agreement has emerged in the community around five main goals:

- The current residents of Glendale should not be displaced under any circumstances.
- The residents of Glendale deserve to live in decent, safe and healthy housing that meets their needs.
- There is not community support for the demolition of the Townhomes of Glendale.
- The Townhomes should remain a publicly owned asset to guarantee long-term benefits and permanent affordability for people with very low incomes.
- Pathways should be found to preserve and rehabilitate the Townhomes.

I am convinced that any successful plan moving forward should focus on these elements and that it will be essential that the priority be on fixing, repairing, updating and renovating the current housing. I do not support leasing or selling it to private developers and believe it must be controlled in a way that prevents any future gentrification of the neighborhood. For any future improvements to be successful, I believe that the residents must be part of the planning. They should be consulted and able to influence and approve plans before any are finalized.

Sincerely,

