



Minneapolis

City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>
www.facebook.com/camgordonward2

Congressman Keith Ellison
2100 Plymouth Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Antonio R. Riley
Chicago Regional Office
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

MPHA Board of Commissioners
c/o Minneapolis Public Housing Authority
1001 Washington Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1043

December 14, 2015

Dear Congressman Ellison, Mr. Riley and MPHA Commissioners,

I am writing to you about the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) property in Minneapolis' Second Ward as the Minneapolis City Council Member for that Ward. As such, I represent the residents of the Public Housing campus I am referring to, known as the Glendale Townhomes, located in Southeast Minneapolis at 2707 SE Essex St., Minneapolis, MN, 55414.

For the past several months the MPHA has been exploring potential rehabilitation and redevelopment of these townhomes and this has resulted in substantial concerns and conflicts. These concerns have been exacerbated by the lack of a formal Residents Council, a lack of trust between tenant and management and a sense that residents are not being included in planning and decision-making in a timely and transparent way.

Since MPHA plans were revealed last summer, residents have organized a Defend Glendale committee, the area neighborhood group (Prospect Park Association) has created a special committee focused on Glendale and the potential project and the associated fears of demolition of all the buildings and/or the construction of high density apartments in its place have been discussed and debated throughout the community.

Earlier in the year, when the MPHA approached the city about formally partnering on a redevelopment planning effort, it was clear to me and to my colleagues on the Council that the MPHA had not successfully won the support of residents or the broader community. Many of us recognized that the relatively low density, family-oriented housing with connected services at the child

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Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612- 673-3737.

development facility and city park located adjacent to the housing has served its residents and the neighboring community well and is worthy of investment. I and a clear majority of the City Council, also place enormous value on the preservation of affordable housing in general and of public housing in particular. Still, we wisely elected not to engage formally in this project at the time due in large part to the conflict and controversy associated with it.

An example of this controversy was clearly evident at a visioning meeting convened this fall by MPHA when a significant group of residents walked out of the meeting when they were not allowed to address the larger group in attendance.

This fall, the neighborhood organization formally passed a resolution stating the following:

1. The Board of Directors of the Prospect Park Association (PPA) representing all of the residents of Prospect Park does not support demolition of any of the Townhomes of Glendale.
2. The Prospect Park Association supports Glendale Townhomes as a publicly owned asset to guarantee ongoing and long-term benefit to the residents of the City of Minneapolis and Prospect Park.
3. The Prospect Park Association supports pathways that preserve and rehabilitate Glendale Townhomes and instructs PPA committees and others intersecting with Glendale, to prioritize and explore such options with all units of governments.

Additionally, the community is working to get more information about funding for repairs that seem to have gone undone, fueling fears that they are being delayed in order to justify demolition. They are requesting that an in-depth audit be conducted of MPHA's spending at Glendale over the past two decades, in order to make their practices transparent to the public and to its residents. This seems like a reasonable request.

Finally, I thank those of you who are already engaged in this process. As it continues, which it appears to be doing, I encourage all of you to stay or get more informed and involved. If any kind of improvement is to be made at the Glendale Townhomes property it should only be done so with the enthusiastic support of a trusting and fully informed community. Your guidance and thoughtful participation in the months ahead could go a long way towards making that possible.

Please let me know if you need additional information and I would be happy to meet to discuss this further if you think that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cam Gordon', written in a cursive style.

Cam Gordon