From:  Glendale Townhomes Residents: Ladan Yusuf and Michelle Montbriand:

To:       MPHA. Cora McCorvey, Dean Carslon, Bob Boyd, Mary Boler, Board

 member  Cara Letofsky and  MPHA Board

Date: January 28th, 2016

Hello Bob, Dean, and Mary: You presented the four plans for redevelopment mentioned  in today’s article to few of us representing   Defend Glendale Campaign and PPA Glendale Committee. This was an attempt to plan a community meeting which failed.

We heard about MPHA's  plans for the first time yesterday Jan.27th at Luxton Park at 4:30  after your noon MPHA Board meeting which hardly any of us were aware of except an email you sent to PPA a while ago.  But there was no announcement of MPHA Board meeting in Glendale or fliers provided in Glendale so residents are aware.

When we had the small planning meeting yesterday, the purpose was to find out what your next steps were so we can share it with residents in our next meeting and hopefully  have MPHA present their updates in a community wide meeting since Residents walked out of your last meeting on Nov,12. 15.  As usual you were not interested in hearing about the vision petition of over 100 residents signed to fix and repair the homes.  You did not want to hear about the  chronic repairs  needed in the  units that can easily be repaired and fixed.  To wake you up, Michelle had to bring mice evidence that is tearing her house  apart,  the mice feces in  a plastic bag to see  how bad the maintenance  is  and the funds you have to make the east repairs and upkeeps you stopped the last five years. You saw this and the sad thing is still were in denial.  You continued  to disagree or ignore the issue. How can you be in charge of taking care of these homes with such disposition

 At this time, you did not tell us that you  already provided these plans earlier that day to the media during your board meeting with out residents knowing anything about it.  You did know we were having a planning meeting in Glendale  two weeks prior, but you chose  hide it from us and to make it public before sharing it with us.  In addition, residents have not been encouraged to attend MPHA Board meetings, and hardly anyone can attend  at  noon on Weds/ weekday.   Also, last year when I sent Bob Boyd an email requesting that we attend Board meetings, we were told we could not speak, and the second  time we requested to attend, we got no reply via email.

Today looks like everyone outside of Glendale knows  about what you plan to do in Glendale except Glendale residents. Again, you ignore our voice, petition, and continue to have closed door meetings, oppress us, while  ignoring the City’s open and transparent process you agreed to in July, 2015.

We found out you knew of these plans since September of 2015,  you contracted with Sherman Associates. We continued to ask for the plans, you had no response, you stalled us or you ignore our letters from Defend Glendale Campaign.  Also, during all of the community meetings since  September, 2015  you did not mention these plans especially during the Nov. 12th 2015 visioning meeting,  where majority of Glendale residents walked  out because you would not let us talk or accept our petition to repair/fix our homes of 100 signatures from Glendale alone.

We have a lot of questions about these plans, where the funds are coming from, the process, etc. You heard loud and clear that we want you to fix and repair Glendale option 1 which is the cheapest and does not displace anyone you chose to ignore it and say you have no money to maintain basic repairs of these homes yet you have millions more to build new buildings.  Who is financing these plan?   The  skewed messaging from MPHA, especially Biko's survey is very apparent to fit you mission to demolish Glendale by any means necessary   In the  Biko's report, Bill Williams, states he surveyed 48 people from Glendale.  As we recall half of those his staff spoke to did not have translators and could not take part in the survey.

I remember out of 48 people the Somali residents we spoke to had no comments or said they don't want to move so where are their numbers?  What is the majority Bill Williams is talking about and who are they?  This is misleading.  The over 100 residents who took part in DG  petition that want their homes fixed and repaired have been ignored.   Biko's process is full of misinformation which is dangerous to the public.

Also, we were told that  MPHA were not happy with the results of the Biko’s survey  because only 48 people were surveyed such a small number. The survey does not even ask the question if residents want to move, etc.  Biko  states the following  in their report. "  96 residents answered their doors   and 48 completed the survey out of  96,  and  all 48 residents  majority to all 100%  preferred redevelopment over rehabilitation. But  the survey does not even  ask that question and we know from our neighbors  majority Somalis we talk to refused to take part in the survey  (see attached survey and our statement about this process on Nov,12.15. )

This poor survey process that is invalid led MPHA to  conduct  private meetings with residents to tell them they are moving out, and provided a fact sheet during their  yearly income re -certification appointments which scared a lot of residents, and others said they are not for these plains except to fix and repair.  We also made a statement about this poor decision on your part to manipulate us as residents  at a very vulnerable time where you are interviewing us about our  income and  financial status to see if we are worthy staying here.   Even though the financial re- certification takes place every year around this time, but the additional private meetings to manipulate us to find out if we will go along with your plans of displacement is unethical and dangerous to our safety  and well being.  You are all professionals and know  that two process should have been separate.

I strongly advice MPHA to stop this pattern of misleading and misinformation about such a critical and important issue where all of our lives, homes and  stability are at stake.  MPHA you continue to ignore and disrespect us as human beings and  we are tired of it.   Also, we have had architects come in to our homes and they were surprised how good of shape these homes were but basic up keep were neglected such as heat, insulation, rodent, paint, and replacing aging equipment that funds were received for but ignored.

We are asking you again to do the following to show good faith:

1. To send us the plans you share with the media via email that is readable in larger fonts in the ethnic languages of Glendale  so we can share it with  our neighbors ,  We want the translation to be correct and not skewed as we will double verify.

2.  We want a third party , CURA, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota  to analyze these plans before any community meetings or public hearings take place with all of it finances.

3.  We are asking for all of the financials and budget for these plans line item by line item, who will finance these plans, where will the funds  come from  to accompany these plans  before we have any community meeting or hearing takes place?

4. We want you to fix and repair issues that are easy to repair  as that  part of your routine job now for all 184 units and reported on your  yearly and bi-yearly inspection reports,  but they are usually ignored.

5.  We want an independent financial audit to make sure that the funds and rent paid by residents are going to maintain Glendale Townhomes.

Sincerely,

Ladan Yusuf and Michelle Montbriand

Defend Glendale Campaign