



From: Defend Glendale Campaign
To: Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA)
Date: February 28, 2017
Re: Response to MPHA's letter addressing DGC open letter

The Defend Glendale Campaign has reviewed MPHA's response to our open letter dated December 20th sent to MPHA, and Council Member Lisa Goodman. We are yet to receive a response from Council Member Lisa Goodman.

The requests we have made in the open letter were not responded to. MPHA must understand how the actions they take create a lack of transparency, show contradictions, and spread misinformation about the future of Glendale. It is not enough to claim transparency. One must practice it because actions speak louder than words.

- 1) MPHA is playing a game of waiting. It claims that there are no future plans to demolish Glendale, gentrify the neighborhood, displace residents, or sell public land to private developers such as Sherman Associates. If that is the case, then MPHA Board of Commissioners must present a policy that explicitly states this position. The recent hiring of a new Executive Director suggests that future plans of demolition are very much a possibility; Gregory Russ specializes in turning public land over into the hands of private developers.
- 2) The heat issue has been an ongoing problem since 2010. It has put children, adults, and elders safety and health at risk. It is unfortunate that MPHA made the decision to lower the heat while failing to insulate the homes. Defend Glendale has produced many resident testimonies that show temperatures inside the homes are below 72 degrees, and that the thermostats are only sensitive to the living room and fail to account for bedrooms and any other rooms that lack insulation. MPHA staff in Glendale is aware that the real temperatures in the majority of these homes are below 72 because the heat does not work properly and the homes lack proper insulation. Residents' calls for work orders to report lack of heat, are often ignored. One resident with a sick child was told that there is nothing to be done about the heat and that he should to put on blankets and extra socks to keep warm.

Since February 2016, Sustainable Resource Center <http://www.src-mn.org/> a federally funded nonprofit that specializes in energy efficient home environment with a long track record of providing services to homes all over Hennepin County offered to insulate Glendale Townhomes free of charge. We learned that MPHA has been resisting this offer for almost 12 months while residents freeze during sub-zero temperatures. Since MPHA is refusing to raise the heat or insulate, they must allow SRC to insulate the homes as quickly as possible.

- 3) Testimonies from East African residents have shown numerous times that they have been a target in Glendale. This is acutely experienced by East African residents who

work to protect Glendale, and speak up about abuses, lack of repairs, overcharges, heat issue and mistreatments. Many do not speak English or receive proper interpretation. We have presented letters sent to residents where MPHA and their private partners ask residents to move out of Glendale to places such as Maple Grove. Maple Grove is characterized by increased racist crimes and Islamophobia since the Trump election.

- 4) Every point we have raised in the open letter is supported by evidence and resident testimonies. Because of lack of transparent and clear actions from MPHA on the future of Glendale, there is a lack of trust from Glendale residents. Daily, Glendale residents experience misinformation, anxiety, fear, and restlessness. Trust cannot be gained without providing transparency and clarity first. Moreover, without trust, MPHA cannot move forward or fulfill its mission.

We urge MPHA to listen to residents who actually live in public housing and know their homes. ***MPHA must take decisive action to show residents that Glendale is here to stay.*** pass a long-term policy for the future of Glendale including repairs to homes; allow the Sustainable Resource Center to insulate the homes; and work to gain residents' trust.

Further, we ask MPHA to respond to the demands made in the original letter, namely: We ask that Council Member Lisa Goodman, the Board of Commissioners of MPHA, and Chairman of the Board F. Clayton Tyler, New Director Gregory P. Russ and Director of Policy Bob Boyd to write letters to Glendale residents to state the facts and explain your position on following items:

1. Neither MPHA nor the City of Minneapolis, or HUD have approved or voted to demolish Glendale, and no one will be forced to move out of their homes.
2. MPHA property managers will stop targeting East African Muslim residents.
3. MPHA will not use bilingual staff to spread biased information that violates resident rights, and instead will hire certified independent translators/interpreters.
4. MPHA will fix the heat problem in Glendale by improving the insulation and turning over heat control to the residents.
5. MPHA will write letters to all Glendale residents to clear these issues by January 30, 2017.

Sincerely,

Defend Glendale Campaign

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