

To: MPHA Director Gregory Russ, MPHA Board of Commissioners & Minneapolis Highrise Council
From: Hoda Isak
Date: June 13th, 2017
Re: MPHA plans to privatize our homes and & displace us

My name is Hoda Isak. I am a resident of public housing building on Elliot Twins Highrise 1225 South 8th street, Minneapolis in Ward 6. I have been living there since March 2014. I received your letter 6/13/2017 Tuesday, today under my door. In your letter, you talk about how "Guiding Principles for Redevelopment and Capital Investments at MPHA" have been made with resident input, and how we approved this plan. We don't approve this plan. How can we approve it, when we didn't even know about your plans. We didn't work on this together. You didn't ask us what we need, you just went ahead and changed the mission of MPHA that says "to promote and deliver quality, well managed to a diverse, low income population and, with partners, contribute to the well-being of the individuals, families and community we serve." I'm particularly concerned with "deliver quality, well managed", and "with partners contribute". You want to sell the land to your "partners" which means private developers that will kick us out, and raise the price for the units so that it is no longer public housing, or affordable, or income based which is 30% of income for rent. You are hiding behind fancy language. I ran into a white elderly man today who said he didn't understand the letter even though, English is his first language. I am fluent in both Somali and English, and I couldn't understand what you were saying in both languages. The letter in both languages was obscure. You don't use common English that people understand. Not only are you planning to displace us from our homes, you are already moving ahead with this by pushing residents out from 314 Hennepin Avenue. Selling our homes to private developers, and pushing us out is not the only option on the table. Even in your PowerPoint, you said that there were other public options then why are you already moving ahead with this as if it is the only option.

The letter from Minneapolis Highrise Council (MHRC) signed by Mary McGovern on all behalf of residents doesn't represent us. It is unauthorized. She did not consult with any of us even though I am a board member of MHRC. Also, I am the Secretary for Resident Council in my building. I had no knowledge of these plans. No one asked me to approve anything, and no one asked for my input. In fact, public housing residents from Glendale rejected these plans on April 17th, and we thought this issue was only facing Glendale. When in fact our homes are next on the chopping block and this is bigger now than one building or Glendale. MPHA thinks we are stupid that we will sign our homes away. However, if MPHA does not stop this violation of our rights, we will be in the streets because public housing is a human right.

Yours Truly,
Hoda Isak
Secretary of Elliot Resident Council
MHRC Board Member