

June 2, 2017

MPHA receives MHFA funding to preserve public housing

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, (MHFA)’s yearly budget for public housing funds is $20 million.  This is through a program called POHP, Publicly Owned Housing Program, where Public Housing Authorities and Agencies (PHA) all over Minnesota can apply for funds to fix, repair, and rehabilitate their properties.  PHA’s use these funds to rehabilitate and preserve public housing in order to prevent neglect, demolition, and displacement.  Depending on the need of the PHA properties, funding ranges from $60,000 to $2 million per PHA per year.

The Defend Glendale Campaign found out that MPHA applied for these grants to repair other properties, facilities and homes in previous funding cycles, but never applied to fix, repair, or rehab Glendale. This is a MHFA document [http**://tinyurl.com/MPHA-awards-from-MHFA**](http://tinyurl.com/MPHA-awards-from-MHFA) that shows MPHA never applied for any grants for normal fixing and repairs for Glendale Townhomes from 1992 to 2016. Yet, MPHA claims that Glendale is currently in such a state of disrepair that they don’t have the money to maintain or preserve Glendale Townhomes.  If that is the case, then why didn’t MPHA apply for POHP grants specifically for Glendale?  This is more evidence that the intent has long been to neglect these homes. The unspoken goal to sell and profit from Glendale was understood within the MPHA; while at the same time, MPHA would receive scores of 98 out of 100 from yearly HUD inspections for Glendale and had thus been ranked a high performer by HUD since 1997.  MPHA was using the narrative that the Glendale Townhomes are in bad shape in order to plan to sell Glendale. Since 2010, they were committing severe neglect while they have had plenty of opportunities to apply for POHP funding. This contradiction shows that MPHA’s plans to sell Glendale to developers intensified when the Green Line Light rail was been built from 2010 to 2014. As a result of the Light rail's massive success, the rate of high rent condominiums doubled in Prospect Park neighborhood where Glendale is located. Prospect Park, an already wealthy neighborhood of private homes, saw ever-increasing property values with both new high-rise development and The University of Minnesota's density increasing. To learn more about POHP review this link or below attachment [**http://tinyurl.com/MHFA-POHP-Manual**](http://tinyurl.com/MHFA-POHP-Manual)

**Sincerely,**

**Defend Glendale Campaign**

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