

January 18, 2017

**Update:**

**MPHA refuses to increase the heat in Glendale Townhomes & for SRC to insulate the homes, intentionally putting families and children at risk and committing acts of discrimination**

Dear Allies:

The Defend Glendale Campaign ( DGC) is still receiving calls from residents who face cold temperatures in their houses, risking the health and safety of elders and children in Glendale Townhomes.

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority refuses to increase the heat temperatures inside Glendale Townhomes despite the many complaints that residents filed with City of Minneapolis, and HUD’s Minneapolis office. Every time a Somali resident calls the work order number, MPHA sends maintenance staff into the Somali resident’s house to hinder the resident from receiving the adequate heat the family requested. The staff sometimes makes several visits to the same house after work orders are filed, and refuse to change the heat while they clearly see the family’s health is at risk because of the cold. Many families then stop calling because they are being purposefully ignored. As a result, some residents buy space heaters to stay warm, which are dangerous. However, because the family is using more electricity because of the space heater, MPHA punishes the resident by charging extra fees to their electrical bill that should have been covered with their rent. This means that this discrimination and abuse is intentional especially East African families that do not speak English.

The Defend Glendale Campaign recently learned that the Sustainable Resources Center, Inc. (SRC) <http://www.src-mn.org/> a non-profit organization whose mission is to insulate homes, provide clean air, energy efficiency and energy savings programs to homes in Hennepin County offered MPHA the opportunity to insulate all of 184 units of Glendale Townhomes free of charge in February of 2016. SRC receives funding from U.S. Department of Energy. SRC ‘s goals was to start the insulation process last year. DGC learned that MPHA has been purposely blocking SRC from insulating our homes for almost 12 months because MPHA wants to demolish Glendale in the coming years. MPHA does not want any repairs or insulation to take place in Glendale at all. MPHA has made this decision even though funds are available to insulate, fix, and repair Glendale. MPHA is fully aware that they could be in violation of the Fair Housing Act, and housing codes as they put families and children at risk.

DGC also learned that insulating, fixing, and repairing Glendale Townhomes is a political will. Key elected officials from the City to Congress are fully aware of the intentional, deliberate, and calculated decision by MPHA to lower heat in our homes. These key elected officials are in an immediate positon with one phone call to hold MPHA accountable, and to allow SRC to start the insulation process. If Glendale residents were all white and middle class residents, this abuse would never take place. Keeping the heat low and blocking SRC from providing free insulation is intentional and discriminatory. MPHA is getting away with this abuse because residents are low -income, Somalis, Oromo, Hmong, Muslims, Black and refugees and immigrant with language barriers.

**Sincerely,**

**Defend Glendale Campaign**

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