February 13, 2020.

**Wedge LIVE Comes for Public Housing Residents: A Response from DG&PHC!**

Wedge LIVE is the white urbanist mouthpiece for Minneapolis’ real estate industry that markets itself as “journalism” to other white urbanists. It has a history of erasing the voices of BIPOC anti-gentrification activists and promoting a neoliberal conservative agenda. Now it is coming after the Black, Black Muslim, Senior and people with disabilities who are public housing residents - all of whom are women - who run Defend Glendale & Public Housing Coalition and have been organizing for five years to save our homes and community from privatization and displacement.

After years of smugly dismissing the concerns of public housing residents - whose claims are backed up by mountains of evidence from MPHA’s own documents and the entire history of public housing privatization - WedgeLIVE is now officially endorsing MPHA and the City’s plans to privatize Minneapolis public housing through the Section 18 program. Rather than look at any of the research about this issue published by our campaign or by journalists operating locally and nationally, WedgeLIVE is lazily parroting MPHA’s assertions about Section 18 being good for public housing residents and smearing any opposition as “misinformation”. In doing so WedgeLIVE has firmly placed itself on the side of Donald Trump and his HUD Secretary Ben Carson. The Trump administration gutted resident protections for the program and is encouraging local housing authorities to use Section 18 to privatize their housing without resident input or agreement.

Trump’s anti-public housing agenda is being pushed in Minneapolis by MPHA with the help of the City Council and Mayor Frey. MPHA’s interim director Tracy Scott has a history of destroying public housing in Atlanta, <https://www.dgphc.org/2019/11/04/who-is-tracey-scott-the-new-interim-director-of-mpha/>. Her predecessor, Greg Russ, <https://www.dgphc.org/2019/06/18/mphas-greg-russ-the-czar-of-privatization-gentrification-plans-to-lead-nycha/> spent his career dismantling public housing around the country and has since moved on to head the New York City Housing Authority, where he has similarly come under attack by public housing residents for his attempts to privatize their homes. Under his leadership, MPHA harassed and silenced not only public housing residents and organizers but also any journalist who gave residents a voice. For more on MPHA’s bullying of journalists, see this expose in the Columbia Journalism Review, <https://www.cjr.org/united_states_project/minnesota-housing-retraction-mpha.php>. Fortunately for WedgeLIVE, it has nothing to worry about since it has never and will never be public housing residents or a voice. They don’t have to worry about being displaced or being homeless. They are white and privileged.

WedgeLIVE’s pro-privatization puff piece today is certainly a response to the growing momentum of our movement to keep the public housing public. Recently a group of Minnesota DFL senators wrote this letter supporting our call to stop Section18; [**https://www.dgphc.org/2020/01/16/dfl-senate-district-63-sends-a-open-letter-to-stop-section-18/**](https://www.dgphc.org/2020/01/16/dfl-senate-district-63-sends-a-open-letter-to-stop-section-18/)**.**

National articles have come out in the past few years exposing the dangers of privatization, and public housing residents around the country, such as in New York City; Ferndale, MI; and Cincinnati, OH are fighting back. As a mouthpiece for the gentrification-industrial complex, WedgeLIVE is panicking and publishing smears about us in a desperate attempt to stop our movement. But the truth is out there for anyone willing to see it. We are going to keep the public housing public! <https://truthout.org/articles/public-housing-has-been-woefully-underfunded-that-could-change-in-2020/>

**Defend Glendale & Public Housing Coalition**

**defendglendale @ gmail. com |** [**www.dgphc.org**](http://www.dgphc.org/) **| facebook @ defendglendale |** [**twitter @ defendglendale**](https://twitter.com/defendglendale)

**|** [**Instagram @ defendglendale**](https://twitter.com/defendglendale)

**P.O. Box 14616, Minneapolis, MN 55414 ( 612) -389-8527**