

Central Advisory Council

Of the Chicago Housing Authority Residents

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CAC OfficersMamie Bone
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Vice-
ChairpersonWillie Burrell
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May 31, 2000

Sharon Gist-Gilliam, Chairperson
Chicago Housing Authority
Board of Commissioners
626 W. Jackson Blvd. 7th fl.
Chicago, Illinois 60661

Re: Outstanding Issues Related to the CHA Plan for Transformation

Dear Ms. Gilliam:

This is a follow up to the attached letter, and recent discussion, on various issues related to the CHA's Plan for Transformation.

The Central Advisory Council (CAC) forwarded the attached letter to CHA over a month ago; and as yet, has not received any verbal or written response regarding any of the matters referenced in the letter. The CAC is requesting that you assign a staff person to provide responses to these critical issues.

The issue of CHA staff not renting units must be resolved or addressed as soon as possible. It is clear that if CHA continues its policy of not renting units as they become vacant, the vacancy rate will continue to increase; and will result in more and more buildings being closed because of winter/heat problems, or building consolidation. CHA committed in the Plan for Transformation to maintain units in a decent, safe and sanitary condition. CHA, in failing to re-occupy units as they are vacated, is creating conditions that jeopardize the safety of residents with vandalism and will result in the premature closing of buildings and force "emergency" relocation of residents. The CAC specifically negotiated this issue as a condition of approval of the Plan for Transformation and believes CHA has failed to abide by the agreement. The CAC requests that CHA immediately begin re-occupancy of vacated units.

We are again requesting that CHA, and private managers, work with the CAC now, to identify buildings with potential heating problems and to discuss how and if these heating problems can be addressed before the heating season begins.

The CAC recently received correspondence from HUD granting a waiver to CHA of the Two-year requirement for spending demolition funding awarded this year, and next year. This waiver was aggressively pursued by the CAC to avoid a situation where residents are relocated on an expedited basis long before any redevelopment plans are even discussed. Given the waiver by HUD, the CAC is requesting a meeting as soon as possible to negotiate an Authority-wide demolition schedule consistent with the waiver of the two-year requirement. It is urgent that discussions on this issue commence as soon as possible.

LAC Officers:Deverra Beverly
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Ida B. WellsBeatrice Harris
WentworthWillie Burrell
Geautreux. N/EMaria Fonseca
Geautreux. N/C

The CAC still has received no information regarding how the CAC can access funds for technical assistance. We are again requesting that CHA staff immediately advise of this process so we the CAC can begin obtaining some urgently needed technical assistance to assist in some immediate activities under the CHA Plan for Transformation.

The CAC is again requesting that CHA forward copies of all HUD correspondence sent to CHA. We are requesting copies of all HUD correspondence to CHA from April 1, 2000 to the present. The CAC is preparing separate correspondence to HUD requesting copies of all HUD correspondence to CHA from January 1, 1998 to April 1, 2000.

I recommend that you and your staff meet with the CAC at your earliest convenience to address the above issues and matters.

Sincerely,

Mamie Bone, Chairperson
Central Advisory Council

C: LAC Presidents
Terry Peterson, CHA Chief Executive Officer
Bridget Reidy, CHA Chief Operating Officer
Leroy Hansen, Attorney for CAC
Richard Wheelock, Attorney for CAC
Robert Whitfield, Attorney for CAC
Nathaniel Boe, Attorney for CAC
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File

RW/cdm