



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

MAY 2 2018

The Honorable Jamilah Nasheed
Missouri Senate
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 328
Jefferson City, MO 65101-1556

Dear Senator Nasheed:

On behalf of Secretary Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., thank you for your letter regarding the infestation of rodents at the Clinton Peabody Development (CPD) in St. Louis, Missouri. The following information is from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH).

PIH staff from the St. Louis Field Office have been in contact with the St. Louis Housing Authority (SLHA) on a regular basis to determine what steps have been taken by the SLHA to remediate the infestation issue. PIH staff has received numerous calls from residents and the Department continues to monitor progress.

SLHA hired two exterminating companies to address the infestation. All units at CPD were inspected and treated by the extermination company. The exterminator conducted follow-up treatments twice a week. The treatments are now conducted once a week, as requests by the residents have decreased. SLHA continues to address exterior access points by plugging holes, installing dryer vent covers, replacing doors, and covering crawl space access and door sweeps, at an estimated cost of \$16,200 to cover crawl space doors and \$77,000 to replace damaged exterior doors. SLHA regularly monitors the development to ensure these access points remain covered. Trash and debris have been removed from storm drains at a cost of \$16,800. Large holes in dumpsters were plugged and SLHA tried to ensure dumpsters doors were closed regularly, but this method was not effective as trash was then piled around the dumpsters.

Ductwork and radiators were inspected and cleaned by SLHA maintenance staff for an estimated cost of \$75,000. SLHA has worked with the Department of Health (DOH) on inspecting units and addressing the issues noted. SLHA worked with DOH and tried to obtain the services of other social service agencies to educate residents, provide household management classes, and to distribute cleaning supplies at resident meetings. Unfortunately, no other social service agencies responded.

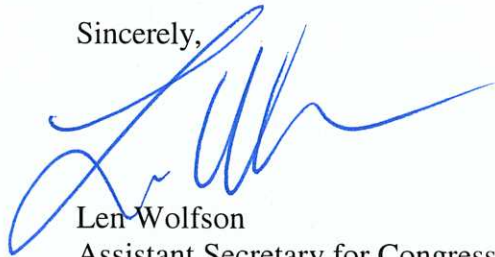
SLHA had a report of a broken sewer line, which caused odors to some units. SLHA transferred one resident to another unit at the resident's request. Units were inspected by SLHA for plumbing issues such as slow or leaking faucets, loose plumbing, etc. In all, 83 percent of identified issues have been resolved. SLHA continues to work with DOH on inspecting units and following up on any reported infestation related issues. SLHA maintenance staff cleaned up any noted mouse droppings, moved appliances and cleaned behind them, including walls. The remaining units were not accessible by SLHA but will be addressed using the work order system.

SLHA will continue going into utility closets to clean up any droppings or other infestation issues. SLHA will begin cleaning vents and ducts in units already treated for infestation. DOH conducted follow-up inspections on March 29 and 30, 2018. Any units found to be clear of any droppings will be determined to be infestation free by DOH. Two members of the SLHA Board of Commissioners (BOC), executive staff, and one member from HUD was on site March 28, 2018, to reach out to residents who attended the SLHA BOC meeting. SLHA estimates \$250,515 will be needed to complete the remediation of the mice infestation issue. This will also include roach infestation issues.

SLHA has used their Capital Funds Program (CFP) grant funds, as well as some of their reserves to pay for the remediation efforts. No additional funding has been given to SLHA, from HUD, the City of St. Louis, or any other organizations, in this on-going effort. As a result, other projects will have to be put on hold or removed from SLHA's CFP projects until new funding is available.

I hope this information is helpful. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Len Wolfson
Assistant Secretary for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Relations