



New England

NOV 20 2017

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Public Housing
Boston Hub
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building
10 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02222-1092

Board of Commissioners
c/o Kathleen Prunier, Chair
Groveland Housing Authority
7 Harvard Rd
Groveland, MA 01834

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to express concern that my office has regarding a number of issues at the Groveland Housing Authority. Over the last several months staff from this office has reached out to the Executive Director both by phone and via email as a result of contact made by residents. Since we have not been able to determine that adequate action has been taken related to those concerns this letter will detail information related to each. We ask that you ensure that a written response regarding actions that have been taken is received by this office within ten days of the date of this letter.

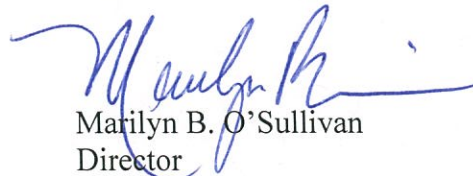
- On November 6, 2017 our office was contacted by a public housing resident who reported that she believed that GHA staff had entered her unit without permission and that items may have been missing as a result. Staff from this office reported this to the Executive Director via email the same day and asked that contact be made with the resident to discuss these allegations. Subsequent to that, as a result of that contact, several of our staff members contacted the Executive Director by telephone on November 7 since no response to the email had been received. It came to our attention that the following day there were conversations with police and health care professionals indicating that there were allegedly threats made against GHA staff. Staff in this office spoke to the Executive Director November 10 and again on November 13 regarding the allegations. To date, our office has not been advised of any contact made with the resident. Repeated requests for information regarding this matter have gone unanswered.
- This office was provided with photos of the hallways and apartment doors of residents at the federal public housing complex. One resident was reportedly informed that items could not be hung on their door and that they could not keep any items in the hallway. While it appears that the GHA has a Common Area Use Policy that policy does not prohibit items being hung on the doors. Until such time as a proposed revised policy is posted for review by the residents for the required 30-day comment period all residents should be informed in writing that there is no policy prohibiting items on the doors. A copy of that letter should be shared with this office. This issue has been discussed

several times with the Executive Director. We informed the Executive Director that photos had been shared with this office. We have requested followup on this matter and we have not been advised that any action has been taken in this regard as of the date of this letter.

- As you know this office executed a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with your agency as a result of a substandard physical designation by HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) for the period ending June 30, 2016 and a site visit by staff from this office on April 4, 2017. The GHA is required to submit a monthly report no later than the last day of the month. The October report has not yet been received. Updates have been late or have not been submitted, contrary to the requirements of the CAP.
- Contact has been made to this office by a number of residents to inquire about regulations regarding resident councils and the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). The GHA is required to conduct outreach for the development of a RAB as part of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan. We have provided information to the GHA to consider with regard to efforts in this area. We have also recommended that the GHA consider changing the location of its board meeting to the Community Room rather than the office of the Executive Director since residents have also expressed concern on this topic. The community room may be a more appropriate setting for the public meetings.

Staff from this office is available should you have questions regarding the items above. I look forward to the GHA's written response within ten (10) days. If you have any questions regarding the above matters please feel free to contact me at (617) 994-8420.

Very sincerely yours,



Marilyn B. O'Sullivan
Director

cc:

Linda Anderson, Commissioner, Groveland Housing Authority
Elaine Davey, Commissioner, Groveland Housing Authority
Elizabeth Gorski, Commissioner, Groveland Housing Authority
Valerie Osbourne, Commissioner, Groveland Housing Authority
Joseph Hart, Executive Director