



February 3, 2020

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Agency
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

As members of the Minneapolis State Senate Delegation, we contacted you on January 16, 2020, with concerns regarding the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority's (MPHA) *Section 18* Demolition & Disposition process. We requested you halt the process until MPHA demonstrated the agency has a short- and long-term protection plan for residents currently residing in the buildings.

We contacted you after constituents voiced concerns about possible demolition of scattered site housing and displacements of public housing residents. When questions and issues are raised by our constituents, we feel we have an obligation to review the issue. We believe public housing is an essential part of the housing continuum and that we need to protect that housing and our constituents living in public housing. We needed to ensure the City and MPHA strategies were preserving and maintaining public housing for those living with incomes at or below thirty percent of the Area Median Income.

The City of Minneapolis Code of Ordinances states that the mission of MPHA is to preserve and protect public housing for families with incomes at or below thirty percent of the Area Median Income. The City also adopted guiding principles in December 2018 (RCA-2018-01403) stating support for people who live in public housing. Those guiding principles outlined certain resident protections including the right to be informed about remodeling or redevelopment plans involving a temporary relocation, the right to return to any remodeled or redeveloped property, and the right to not experience rent increases because of the improvements or redevelopment.

We pledge to work with the City, MPHA, the advocates, and the residents to improve the engagement process to reduce confusion and build trust so that these and future public housing projects can move forward. We are committed to working with all involved to protect the residents and minimize disruptions to residents during any renovations. We share the same goal: more safe, public housing that serves our community, enhances the quality of life for residents, and allows families to retain roots in our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Sen. Kari Dzielic

Sen. Patricia Torres Ray

Sen. Jeff Hayden

Sen. Scott Dibble

Sen. Bobby Joe Champion