



Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council
1015 4th Avenue North, STE #203
Minneapolis, MN 55405

July 25, 2016

Mayor Betsy Hodges
Minneapolis City Hall, Room 311
350 South 5th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Dear Mayor Hodges,

Once again, residents of MPHA highrises are looking to you for assistance in helping to make our communities safe and livable. At our July 21, 2016 board meeting, we voted to request that the City of Minneapolis reinstate the mill levy to support important MPHA programs at the maximum amount allowed by State law.


The loss of the mill levy in 2012 (\$1.2 million) resulted in MPHA slashing their guard hours by 60% and they have remained at that level ever since. Over 160 Project Lookout volunteers, citywide, help improve safety and the feeling of security among residents but more help is needed. Historically the City has been a major contributor to public housing security efforts and now many residents feel that the City has abandoned its commitment to residents in this area.

Security is residents' number one priority, and has been for many years. Our buildings are comprised of over 70 % elderly and disabled residents, many with mental health illnesses, who are especially vulnerable to crime and the fear of crime. Additionally, many of our buildings are over 50 years old, and in drastic need of major repairs to elevators, plumbing and electrical systems.

We implore you to restore the mill levy for MPHA. Yes, the federal government should be adequately supporting public housing needs, but they are not. In fact, MPHA capital and operating funds have shrunk in recent years due to federal budget impasses and sequestration. We would like to see the City step up to the plate again to help keep our buildings safe and livable. All of the recent development in Minneapolis must mean there is an expanded tax base. Restoring the levy at the full amount allowed by State law would provide close to \$4 million annually to MPHA. Both security and critical building repair work could be supported by this levy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact MHRC Executive Director Barb Harris at (612) 342-1333 or bharris@mplshighrise.org if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,


Mary McGovern, President
Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council

cc: Minneapolis City Council