

Good morning. My name is Otis Weeks and I am a senior citizen and resident at the Ladrey senior aighrise. I am also the president of the Ladrey Advisory Board. I'm here today to ask for your help. Because I have tried, on behalf of the residents I represent, no fewer than 25 or 30 times, at the residents request, to set up a meeting between the executive director, Mr. Dearman and myself. The reason for this meeting is that we are trying to establish a working relationship between ARHA and the resident advisory board and begin to open the lines of communication between the residents and management of the housing authority. Now, let me say that Mr. Dearman did show up at our March 14, meeting, at which time he announced he would not be returning to any of our meetings but would send someone else. Unfortunately the someone else he sends, evidently does not relay our concerns to him. I say this because we never get a response.

I have sent approximately 15-20 letters to the housing authority requesting different things for the residents and have either not had a response or have simply been referred to his subordinates - who haven't responded...with the exception of one request in which we asked for \$200 for a 4th of July picnic for the residents and that was denied.

There are a lot of problems at the housing authority. Many of them stem from the management level at the housing authority. The tenants I represent here today have stories that are too numerous to tell in 3 minutes.

But, I'd like to tell you a story about what has happened to me to illustrate some of the problem. Several months ago, I approached the head of maintenance and asked him, on behalf of the residents, ~~and asked him~~ why his maintenance workers couldn't just replace some of the burned out lightbulbs for the residents while they were sitting around for hours at a time, not working. I was told that his workers couldn't do ANYTHING without a written work order - no exceptions. When I asked him why residents have to wait 3-4 days and sometimes up to a month just to get a light bulb replaced he insisted they couldn't do it without a work order. Since this is ridiculous, we continued our back and forth about why this was necessary. At that time, I advised him that I would be reporting his maintenance men to ARHA management if I caught them sitting around for 25 minutes at a time, not doing their jobs. That afternoon, I was given a letter alleging that I made verbal threats toward the maintenance man and threatening to evict me.

In other instances, one that is particularly bothersome involves 2 residents who are on dialysis. There are two residents in our building who have to go every other day to dialysis. They have to get up at 5:30 in the morning to wait for their ride. They used to wait in front of the glass wall in some chairs that were lined up on the wall for years. All of sudden, word comes down from management that these disabled seniors can no longer have chairs there because management claims code enforcement told them this violated the code. I contacted code enforcement and was told by inspector tabscott that the chairs were removed at the request of management.

The community room, which is where the tenants now wait, is locked normally at 5:30 in the morning. So, another tenant, to whom the key is entrusted, has to get up at 5:30 in the morning, open the door and let them in.

I tell you these stories because these are peoples lives that are being affected by what management decides to do or not do. We need your help. Thank you for listening.