



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

February 20, 2015

The Honorable Francis Suarez
Commissioner, District 4
City of Miami
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33133

Subject: Haley Sofge Towers and Robert King High Tower

Dear Commissioner Suarez:

This letter is in response to your recent inquiry regarding Haley Sofge Towers and Robert King High Tower. The residents of these properties have also expressed their concerns to my office regarding access to the community center. The Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) Director Michael Liu personally visited the property to speak to the residents and has since implemented administrative changes.

PHCD has reviewed and adjusted staffing schedules to better align with the needs of our elderly residents, which includes extended hours during the week (Monday through Friday) to allow residents access to the community space. The security issues at the building and the common areas remain a priority to ensure that residents and their guests are safe. For this reason, PHCD staff will also be responsible for opening and closing the community rooms.

Unfortunately, due to budgetary reasons, PHCD is unable to have staff onsite during the weekends. Without the budgetary resources, which are dependent on federal action, to provide monitoring of the community center by PHCD staff, allowing unsupervised access to the center raises serious safety and liability issues. It is worthwhile to note that PHCD's federal capital subsidy outlays have been reduced by almost 25 percent within the last decade; and even in the proposed federal budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2016, operating subsidies will only fund 86 percent of the projected cost of running public housing based on the federal government's own estimates.

Despite the fact that PHCD has endured federal budget cuts, the department continues to strategically deploy its resources as efficiently as possible. Furthermore, PHCD continues to make necessary adjustments so that all residents are provided with decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Thank you, for your concern for our elders. Should you require additional information, please contact Director, Michael Liu at 786-469-4106 or via email at mliu88@miamidade.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Liu", is written over a blue horizontal line.

c: Honorable Bruno Barreiro, Commissioner, District 5, Miami-Dade County
Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Michael Liu, Director, Public Housing and Community Development