
February 20, 2006.

Min. Lt. Col. David Burch,
The Ministry of Works & Engineering & Housing,
P. O. Box HM 525,
Hamilton HM CX

Dear Minister Burch,

I am taking this opportunity to address the recent development concerning the placement of some of the tenants of the Canadian Hotel at the Southside facility for emergency housing.

The present composition of residents at the Southside facility comprises women and children and a live-in matron who provides supervision. Although this is emergency housing, specific criteria has been established for admission, one of which determines that the applicant does not have a delinquent account with the Bermuda Housing Corporation.

While the Canadian Hotel tenants are entitled to be accommodated, the decision to place them at Southside gives serious cause for concern. The following considerations are being submitted in this regard.

- ⇒ The admission criteria established for the present residents should apply to the Canadian Hotel residents. An example of this would be whether they have a history of delinquency with their present Landlord.
- ⇒ Four years ago, the Canadian Hotel situation which presented as unstable represents a prolonged housing crisis which required proactive planning. The reactive approach that has been adopted is not considering the potential inherent social risks.
- ⇒ There is strong indication that the Canadian Hotel tenants have a lifestyle that for the most part has been unchecked and unstructured. Their anticipated adherence to the established residential perimeters at Southside is questionable.
- ⇒ A thorough Needs Assessment of the Canadian Hotel tenants would identify specific concerns to be addressed re: individual intervention and programme development.
- ⇒ The provision of intervention by a professional qualified to deal effectively with the unique needs of this population would be beneficial.
- ⇒ Addressing the potential safety and security risks inherent when combining two distinct populations. The potential for compromising the safety of the present tenants is not an acceptable situation.

P.2 Considerations cont'd

The considerations that have been presented are only preliminary at this time and I realize that your Ministerial appointment is recent. However, this decision gives cause for concern and I would hope that the concerns that I have raised will be carefully considered for your attention. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Marilyn V. Jackson

Copy: The Hon. Patrice Minors,
Minister of Health & Family Services.

MVJ/ps
