

Fri, Apr 6, 2018 at 3:18 PM

Final Repair

Hi Vanessa,

You are all set. All violations corrected.

Thanks for your Co-operation



Jacob Neves

Senior Housing Inspector

City of Woonsocket

Division of Minimum Housing

P.O. Box B - 169 Main Street

Woonsocket, RI 02895

(Office: 401.597.6611





rec'd 4/30/2018

CITY OF WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

April 24, 2018

Vanessa Volz, JD Executive Director Sojourner House Inc. 386 Smith Street Providence, RI 02908

Dear Ms. Volz,

I am corresponding to update you on the status of Sojourner House Inc.'s situation pertaining to the issues of non-compliance (Fire/Life Safety-Minimum Housing) and the lack of cooperation the City has received with inspections pertaining to the property located on . These issues have never been addressed since the completion of the Re-nabilitation Work in which Sojourner House Inc. signed into a contractual agreement with the City of Woonsocket in November 2009 (amended in April 2010) utilizing HOME funds (funded through the CDBG) for Rehabilitation Work that was conducted on this property. Since 2012, Sojourner House Inc. has failed to maintain this facility and the dilapidation of the facility through the lack of maintenance has been evident over the years and now has led to Sojourner House Inc. being in **Default** of their agreement with the City of Woonsocket. The lack of compliance/maintenance became apparent during a May 17, 2017 site visit conducted by the City of Woonsocket at the request of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The conditions of the facility were noted by HUD at that time. The City informed Sojourner House Inc. that site inspections are and have always been a mandatory component of the process in which due- diligence is conducted when a proposed sub-recipient is to participate in a federally funded program such as the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program/Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program/HOME program.

Without the intervention and due-diligence of the Planning Department staff through three (3) inspections, the facility located at categorized as unsafe and not meeting minimum nousing requirements/standards/codes. It has been quite apparent that Sojourner House Inc. has taken the position that the agency is entitled to Federal funds that have awarded and entrusted to the City of Woonsocket without sharing in the obligation and responsibility in being a community partner and steward of Federal funding.

Throughout this whole process, Sojourner House Inc. has taken the position that the City's CDBG/ESG/HOME is an entitlement program at their disposal. The constant circumventing of the process, starting with going to the State OHCD office, then to a local housing non-profit and finally to the City's Solicitors office in an attempt to try to pry Federal funds from the City of Woonsocket has provided evidence that Sojourner house is more interested in receiving funds for their own benefit than provide services to their residents here in Woonsocket. The City through Planning Department has determined that the continued pattern of nonresponsiveness, the lack of cooperation and the failure in the ability to comply with the City of Woonsocket's contractual obligations, regulations and requirements along minimum housing standards set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the State of Rhode Island's Division of Planning/Office of Housing & Community Development will result in an endless negative cycle with Sojourner House Inc. This De-obligation of ESG and CDBG funds will take effect immediately, along with an indefinite suspension in participating in the City of Woonsocket's CDBG/HOME/ESG program until further notice. The City of Woonsocket reserves the right to proceed with any and all action pertaining to the contractual agreement, which is in **Default**, that was signed by Sojourner House Inc. in November 2009 (amended in April 2010), allocating HOME funds (funded through the CDBG) to be utilize for housing rehabilitation. This decision is final.

Sincerely,

Christopher V. Carcifero MUAP, MA, LEED AP, AICP

Deputy Director of Housing and Community Development

Federal Administrator

Department of Planning and Development

City of Woonsocket, RI

Cc. The Honorable Lisa Baldelli- Hunt, Mayor Joel Mathews, Director of Planning & Development Michael Tondra, Chief of Housing and Community Development Pheamo Witcher, Homeless Programs & CDBG, Principal Planner





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City of Woonsocket

Division of Minimum Housing

P.O. Box B - 169 Main Street

Woonsocket, RI 02895

(Office: 401.597.6611





Committed to ending domestic and sexual violence

April 25, 2018

Chris Carcifero Department of Housing and Community Development 169 Main Street Woonsocket, RI 02895-4379

RE: Release of Grant Funding

Dear Mr. Carcifero:

I am writing to follow up on the inspection of Sojourner House's emergency shelter in Woonsocket. On March 29, 2018, we had our final inspection at the property, and on April 6, 2018 I received an e-mail correspondence from Senior Housing Inspector Jacob Neves that stated that all building violations had been corrected. I am attaching a copy of this email correspondence for your review.

Since April 6th, I have followed up with you several times via e-mail correspondence and also by phone to request information about what the next steps are to have our grant funds released now that we have passed this inspection. As of today's date, I have not received any response from your office, and so I am sending this certified letter to document that I have made several efforts to get in touch with you.

I would sincerely appreciate a call back at my office (401-861-6191) or an email (<u>vvolz@sojournerri.org</u>) so that we can move forward with the release of Sojourner House's grant funds.

We greatly appreciate your assistance, as well as the continued support of the City of Woonsocket, to help us execute our mission to assist survivors of domestic and sexual violence access safe house and supportive services.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Volz, J.D. Executive Director

Enclosure:

Email Correspondence from Jacob Neves

CC: John DeSimone, Esquire, Woonsocket City Solicitor's Office Mike Tondra, Chief, Office on Housing and Community Development Pheamo Witcher, Principal Planner, Homeless Programs & CDBG James Comer, Executive Director, Women's Development Corporation



Fri, Apr 6, 2018 at 3:18 PM

Final Repair

Jacob Neves </br>

 Jacob Neves
 Jneves@woonsocketri.org>

 To: Vanessa Volz

 Cc: Chris Carcifero

Hi Vanessa,

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Jacob Neves

Senior Housing Inspector

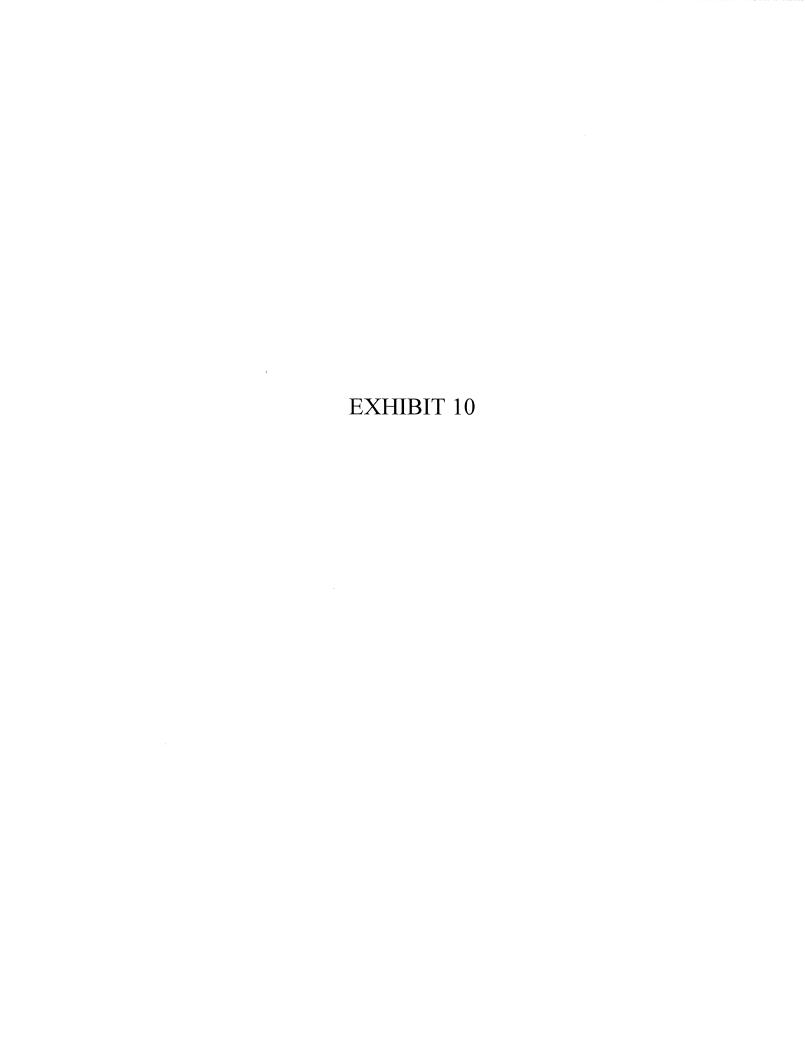
City of Woonsocket

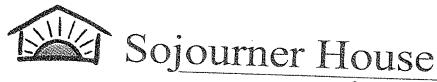
Division of Minimum Housing

P.O. Box B - 169 Main Street

Woonsocket, RI 02895

(Office: 401,597,6611





Committed to ending domestic and sexual violence

May 9, 2018

Mr. Joel Mathews Department of Housing and Community Development 169 Main Street Woonsocket, RI 02895-4379

RE: Release of Grant Funding

Dear Mr. Mathews:

I sincerely appreciate the meeting that we had this morning to discuss Sojourner House's CDBG and CHF/ESG funding from the City of Woonsocket.

Please let this letter serve as a formal written request for the City of Woonsocket to restore these two grant funds. The CDBG grant award is for \$15,000, and the CHF/ESG grant award is for a total of \$25,000.

The attached email correspondence from Senior Housing Inspector Jacob Neves is documentation that we passed our last inspection with the City of Woonsocket as of April 6, 2018. With this documentation, we are not aware of any alleged non-conformance of the requirements of the grants or prior agreements with the City.

As I mentioned during our meeting, Sojourner House is the only domestic violence agency that serves the city of Woonsocket by providing housing and supportive services. We sincerely appreciate our on-going collaboration with the City to ensure that these residents receive the help that they need.

Please reach out to me at <u>vvolz@sojournerri.org</u> or by phone at (401) 861-6191 if I can provide you with any additional information or clarification about this situation.

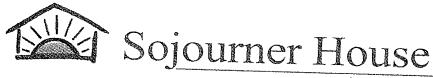
Again, thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Wanessa Volz, J.D. Executive Director

Enclosure:

Email Correspondence from Jacob Neves



Committed to ending domestic and sexual violence

CC: John DeSimone, Esquire, Woonsocket City Solicitor's Office The Honorable Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, Mayor Mike Tondra, Chief, Office on Housing and Community Development Pheamo Witcher, Principal Planner, Homeless Programs & CDBG James Comer, Executive Director, Women's Development Corporation

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Final Repair

Jacob Neves s@woonsocketri.org>
To: Vanessa Volz <vvolz@sojournerri.org>
Cc: Chris Carcifero <ccarcifero@woonsocketri.org>

Hi Vanessa,

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Jacob Neves

Senior Housing Inspector

City of Woonsocket

Division of Minimum Housing

P.O. Box B - 169 Main Street

Woonsocket, RI 02895

(Office: 401.597.6611



CITY OF WOONSOCKET

MINIMUM HOUSING DIVISION

Sojourner House Inc. 386 Smith St. Providence, RI 02908

Address:

Issued: May 18, 2018

Expires: Immediate Compliance

Record: 1686-PN-2

NOTICE OF PUBLIC NUISANCE VIOLATION

RE: ; Inspected on May 11, 2018.

Dear Property Owner:

On the date listed above, an inspection was made of the above referenced property. A violation of the City of Woonsocket Code of Ordinances, Section 10-8A was found. The existence either on private or on public property, except in those areas designated from time to time by the director of public works as public dumps, or any accumulation of debris, refuse, filth or source of filth of such a nature as to constitute a menace to the health, well-being and comfort of the inhabitants of the city is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. You are hereby ordered to remove all construction debris, trash, and all other assorted debris from entire lot and properly dispose of. (Maintain premises in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.) Failure to comply will necessitate legal action. If an appearance in Municipal Court is necessary, a fine of up to Five deemed on each day during or on which a violation continues.

Trash of any and all descriptions shall not be placed at the road more than one (1) day before the day set for collecting in the district. Districts set for collection on Mondays shall not place trash on the street before 3:00p.m.on Sundays, and shall be removed from the street by the end of the day following the collection day.

If any additional information is desired, you may contact me at 401-767-9243 during normal business hours.

Please notify this office as soon as this violation has been corrected.

THIS VIOLATION WILL BE ADJUDICATED IN MUNICIPAL COURT IF CORRECTIONS ARE NOT MADE EXPEDITIOUSLY.

Sincerely,

Jacob Neves

Senior Housing Inspecto

JN/nh





Thu, May 24, 2018 at 11:00 AM

property. We looked into the matter and

Violation

4 messages

Vanessa Volz <vvolz@sojournerri.org>

To: Jacob Neves <jneves@woonsocketri.org>

Hi Jacob,

Earlier in the week I received the correspondence from your office regarding a violation for Sojourner House's received the property. We looked into the matt discovered that a tenant had left a mattress and couch outside, which we have subsequently had removed. The outside property should now be free of any

Please let me know if there is anything else we should do to address this property.

Many thanks!

Vanessa

Vanessa Volz, J.D.

Executive Director Sojourner House 386 Smith Street

Office: (401) 861-6191, x113 Providence, RI 02908

Fax: (401) 861-6157

vvolz@sojournerri.org www.sojournerri.org Fri, May 25, 2018 at 2:09 PM

Jacob Neves <jneves@woonsocketri.org> To: Vanessa Volz <vvolz@sojournerri.org>

Good afternoon,

Confirmed this has been corrected and signed off as of 5-25-18.



Jacob Neves

Senior Housing Inspector

City of Woonsocket

Division of Minimum Housing

P.O. Box B - 169 Main Street

Woonsocket, RI 02895

(Office: 401.597.6611

a Fax: 401.769,5612

⊠ jneves@woonsocketri.org

From: Vanessa Volz [mailto:vvolz@sojournerri.org] Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 11:00 AM To: Jacob Neves

Subject: Violation

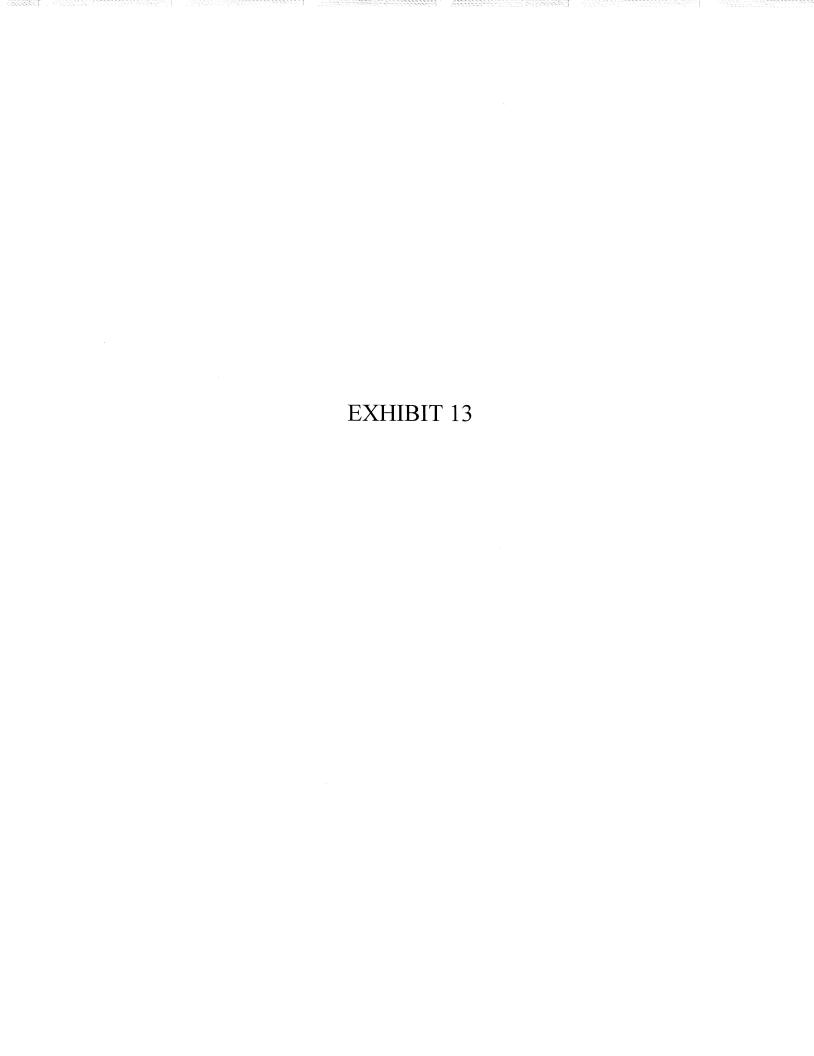
[Quoted text hidden]

Vanessa Volz <vvolz@sojournerri.org> To: Jacob Neves <jneves@woonsocketri.org>

Great, thank you so much!

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/3/?ui=2&ik=487ef2a0cf&jsver=-dxVNc9Y02g.en.&cbl=gmail_fe_180516.06_p8&view=pt&search=sent&th=163ac1ef070b345c&siml=16392aa2b4839a54&siml=163987e4e0cd8960&si

Fri, May 25, 2018 at 3:01 PM





CITY OF WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

May 23, 2018

Vanessa Volz, J.D. Executive Director, Sojourner House 386 Smith Street Providence, RI 02809

Dear Ms. Volz:

Responding to your May 9, 2018 communication requesting the restoration of the two Federal Grants, a meeting was held in my office. As I committed in our meeting, I began to prepare a letter to you that indicated I was prepared to rescind Christopher Carcifero's communication to you, which indicated that you were in default of our grant agreement and as such the two grants would be restored.

Today while I was preparing to sign this communication, I was notified by Jacob Neves, Senior Housing Inspector that he had just cited Sojourner House for this property on for old furniture and miscellaneous debris, scattered on your property. It is for this reason that I have decided to reverse my earlier decision. The two Federal Grants that had been de-obligated by Mr. Carcifero will continue, along with the indefinite suspension of participating in the CDBG/ESG programs. This decision is not appealable or will be reversed. I am disappointed by your attention to the daily care and maintenance of your properties funded in part with funds received from the City.

Sincerely.

Joel D. Mathews

Director of Planning and Development

JDM/kk

Cc: Christopher Carcifero