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April 4, 2016

Sharon Rayle, Property Manager
Lake Shore Towers
c/o Showe Management Corporation
12506 Edgewater Drive
Lakewood, OH 44107

Dear Ms. Rayle:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on March 29th and for explaining the bed bug situation at Lake Shore Towers. This issue is of great concern to me as the council representative for the residents of your building.

I am in receipt of a letter sent to you by attorneys Hazel Remesch and Maria Smith at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland demanding you retract your bed bug policy. In their letter they appropriately cite the HUD Model Lease and Ohio law, both of which are contrary to your policy. They also cite Lakewood's ordinance § 1306.34, which states, in part:

Whenever infestation exists in two or more occupancies...or in the shared or public parts of a dwelling containing two or more dwelling units, or in the shared or public parts of an occupiable structure, extermination thereof shall be the responsibility of the owner.

Any reasonable person interpreting our ordinance would conclude that "responsibility" does not simply mean scheduling the exterminator, but also incurring the costs of such treatment. Instead, you are directly passing on those costs to your low-income tenants.

During our conversation, you stated that the bedbug situation at Lake Shore Towers does not amount to a widespread infestation. While there is ample evidence to the contrary, taking you at your word would imply the costs of remedying the bed bug problem to be a financially manageable proposition for your company. Many of your residents, on the other hand, are impoverished senior citizens and in no position to pay for these costly treatments. Furthermore, given the imprecise nature of determining how bed bugs came to affect a particular unit, it is unjust to require tenants to not only pay to treat their own units, but surrounding apartments they were also

not responsible for infesting. I have also personally seen evidence of bed bug infestation in common areas of your building.

I ask you again to reconsider your policy and to waive all pending and future charges for treating bed bugs in Lake Shore Towers. I also ask that you reimburse residents who have been charged for bed bug treatments in violation of our ordinance. The policy you have in place is creating a crippling burden on the low-income residents of your building who are neither able to pay these fees, nor are they responsible in most cases for the bed bug infestations they are being charged to remedy.

In any event, as a member of Lakewood City Council I must ask you to stop breaking our laws.

Best wishes,



Daniel J. O'Malley
Lakewood City Council, Ward 4

cc: Mr. Andrew Showe, President, Showe Management Corporation
Hon. Sherrod Brown, United States Senator
Hon. Rob Portman, United States Senator
Hon. Marcy Kaptur, United States Congressperson
Hon. Michael P. Summers, Mayor, City of Lakewood
Hon. Samuel T. O'Leary, President, Lakewood City Council
Hon. David Anderson, Vice President, Lakewood City Council; Chair, Housing Committee
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Hon. Ryan Nowlin, Lakewood City Council At-Large
Mr. Kevin Butler, Esq., Director of Law, City of Lakewood
Mr. Dru Siley, Director of Planning and Development, City of Lakewood
Ms. Antoinette Gelsomino, Director of Human Services, City of Lakewood
Chief Scott Gilman, Division of Fire, City of Lakewood
Ms. Pamela Ashby, Field Office Director, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Mr. Ian Andrews, Executive Director, LakewoodAlive
Ms. Angela Shuckahosee, Executive Director, Cleveland Tenants Organization
Ms. Hazel Remesch, Esq., The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Ms. Maria Smith, Esq., The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland