



CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY

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January 11, 2007

Robert W. Healy
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Manager Healy,

This correspondence is in response to your letter dated December 20, 2006, relative to Council Order No. 8, which requests a report on the status of vacant units at Jefferson Park.

On July 20, 2006 the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) sent a letter to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that included a number of requests for financial support relative to the ongoing mold issues at Jefferson Park. CHA's letter included a request for funding to temporarily remediate the mold problem at the development and for a comprehensive master study evaluation of Jefferson Park.

CHA requested \$200,000 for the master plan, which would include studies of Jefferson Park and Lincoln Way, two CHA sites needing significant capital work. DHCD approved \$25,000 for the master plan. CHA requested \$483,625 for mold remediation at Jefferson Park. DHCD approved the total amount requested and work is well under way at Jefferson Park to clean up the units with mold problems. As of December 29, 2006 five of the seventeen affected units were reoccupied. CHA will continue to refill the remediated units as they come back online over the next few months.

While we are pleased that the state is funding the remediation, it is important to stress that this is only a temporary fix. We fully expect to be facing this same problem again a few years from now. The state buildings at Jefferson Park suffer from significant design flaws and issues related to the buildings' age. Without funds for the master plan (and ultimately redevelopment), we will be grappling with this issue every few years until the buildings eventually become uninhabitable due to a combination of capital neglect, design flaw and age.

Thank you very much for your interest in the mold situation at Jefferson Park. Please feel free to contact me anytime for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory P. Russ", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Gregory P. Russ
Executive Director
Cambridge Housing Authority