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Doherty, Sara

From: Forstein, Marshall [MForstein@challiance.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 9:16 AM
To: Decker, Marjorie
Subject: Regarding the sale of Chapman Arms, Cambridge

Dear Councilor Decker:

I am writing on behalf of patients we serve at the Cambridge Health Alliance who reside in Chapman Arms under reduced housing agreements made years ago. I urge you to protect the homes of patients with mental illness who reside there and would literally become homeless without this accommodation. Many of these patients are on very limited social security disability which is insufficient to support rent in an uncontrolled housing environment.

As I cannot divulge names for obvious reasons of confidentiality, I would alert you only to the fact that very significant consequences could result including increased homelessness, psychiatric hospitalization for acute destabilized patients, and potential self harm in a desperate moment of hopeless and intense anxiety about how individuals would survive. As a psychiatrist for at least one of these patients, as well as a supervisor of trainees serving other residents, I am terribly alarmed by this possible event.

Thank you for your consideration.

I am happy to talk with you further if that would be helpful.

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