



August 8, 2014

TO: Mayor Ed Murray

FROM: Steve Walker, Director, Office of Housing

SUBJECT: Barton Family Update from Office of Housing

Cc: Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim
Deputy Mayor Kate Joncas
Lorena Gonzalez

In recent weeks, at your direction, the City has been closely monitoring the issue of the Barton family's pending eviction in West Seattle, gathering information to better understand the circumstances of their situation, and engaging the Barton family and Triangle Properties, the current owners of the home, to facilitate a peaceful resolution amenable to both parties.

I wanted to provide you with an update on the situation and the City's efforts over the past three weeks.

The City of Seattle Office of Housing (OH) coordinated an on-site visit by Human Services Department (HSD) representatives to deliver information on available resources, including information and assistance on how to enroll and benefit from the many governmental and non-profit resources that exist within our City, the County and the State.

The following resources were shared with the Barton family in order to help them access the needed resources:

- Suggested the family connect with the Veteran's Administration (VA) to inquire about receiving a VASH and/or SSFV voucher, which are respective long- and short-term rent subsidies;
- Provided information about services offered by the City of Seattle. These services come from multiple providers and are offered to those at 50 percent of AM. They include rent and utility assistance and housing search support, among other things;
- Facilitated a connection to assistance in relocation from the Lifelong, a local non-profit that has offered assistance in this instance;
- Provided notification that the family may qualify for King County housing assistance for veterans.

Most of these programs are dependent on income and hardship verification, and the City is unable to guarantee that applications for services will be accepted. In three different site visits -- two by a VA representative and one by an HSD representative -- options were provided to the Barton family to apply for assistance. I have been in daily contact with representatives for the Barton family, attempting to connect them to any available resource in this time of need. I remain hopeful that the Bartons will avail themselves of the service opportunities we have presented to them. To date, they have not done so.

During the site visits to offer connection to resources, staff -- who are mandatory reporters -- observed alarming conditions inside the residence that required them to submit mandatory reports to Adult Protective Services, which, from the City's perspective, makes it all the more urgent that the Barton family connects with available services.

The City of Seattle Office of Housing and the Human Services Department will continue to engage with the Barton family to connect them to services for which they may be eligible.