**LIHI Response to December 2019 Minutes**

**January 8, 2020**

Dear Northlake CAC members,

We wanted to provide some clarity, correct misinformation and provide updates in response to the minutes from the last meeting.

As indicated in our November 18th letter to Northlake villagers, LIHI case managers located housing units in LIHI housing and space in other tiny house villages for every resident staying at Northlake Village. Case management was equipped to provide support for these moves, including transportation and storage. The same letter listed the names and contact information of the four case managers available to Northlake residents.

The case managers (Alexa, Will, Jose, Shelby) were successful in transitioning 11 households to either permanent housing or other tiny house villages of the 18 households at Northlake Village at the time of the closure announcement. 9 of these households went to other tiny house villages while 2 went to permanent housing. 2 households declined all contact with the case managers, while 5 interacted at some point—a few of those had plans to move out until the new negotiations began. See those details below.

LIHI was directed in November by the City of Seattle Human Services Department to vacate the property by Dec. 31, 2019 due to HSD's decision not to renew the Northlake Village contract for 2020. This meant that the last day of funding for operations, maintenance, and case management staff was Dec. 31, 2019, and there would be no funding available Jan 1, 2020, onward. The Dec. 9 date set previously was to allow LIHI the time needed to fully remove the structures, deconstruct the utilities and vacate, clean up, and return the site in good condition to Seattle City Light by the end of the day Dec. 31. LIHI was advised by HSD to include language making it very clear the need for the site to be vacated so the property could be returned by Dec. 31. We have no desire whatsoever for people to be trespassed or arrested and any indication suggesting that we did is false.

On Dec. 5, HSD informed LIHI of their conversation with Gift of Grace Lutheran Church to consider allowing the village to stay open past Dec. 31 and possibly through to the original permit end date of March 21, 2020. HSD's decision to reverse its previous decision meant we would change the timing to remove the structures and deconstruct the site. Case management staff then communicated this to residents who they were successful in reaching.

As you know, HSD is still considering the terms of religious sponsorship with Gift of Grace Lutheran Church.

The minutes also indicate “it is false the case manager was barred.” This statement is not true. The case manager was barred and this is documented in conversations between resident leaders and the case manager. A resident leader informed the case manager in early August that there was a successful vote to permanently bar the case manager. We also understand from a former resident leader that this bar was later reversed as Scott informed residents it would look bad publicly. Besides this, case managers were subject to hostility many times as has been shared in previous meetings. And yet case managers continued to work with residents and met with residents to go over housing and shelter options at the village, at Dunn Lumber (thanks again to Mike for graciously offering the space), at other locations, and over phone or email. It is not true that there was no or little case management coverage.

As of right now, LIHI has and will continue to provide supplies, maintenance, and pest abatement services to the village. A new supply order was arranged with delivery scheduled for this last Monday, Jan. 6. A new part for the hot water heater was installed on Dec. 14 and regular pest inspection and treatment continues. A case manager brought by water-proof throws for the residents to the village on Christmas Eve.

We are grateful for all of those neighbors, businesses, and groups bringing by food and donations and special thanks to Sarah and Piper and any others helping for their amazing work doing and organizing the Amazon donated food runs!

More details should be worked out in the coming days and weeks and we will follow up with any updates as we learn them.

Thank you,

**Moved to housing or another village: 11 households**

1.      9 households moved to another tiny house village.

2.      2 households moved to permanent housing, including 1 household that had reunited with family in another state for which LIHI assisted.

**Declined Case Management or relocation options: 7 households**

1.      3 households were working with case management to relocate, but once new developments of closure date changed these households stopped working with case management. Two of these locations were other self-managed villages and one was an alternative location.

2.      2 households initially were working with LIHI case managers but later declined these services. One household has a section 8 voucher and indicated they will move soon. The other household said they want to “wait it out."

3.      2 households have not had any contact with case managers after repeated attempts.

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