

BRIAN HIGGINS
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

ASSISTANT WHIP

July 9, 2020

Gillian Brown, Executive Director
Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority
300 Perry Street
Buffalo, New York 14204

Dear Mr. Brown,

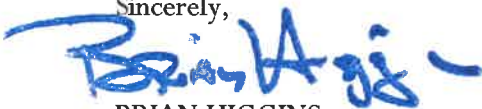
I write as a follow-up to the e-mail you sent to my office in response to an outreach on behalf of concerned residents of Frederick Douglass I and III regarding the termination of access to exterior water outlets. Your response was as follows: *Residents at Frederick Douglass I and III were notified in May that there would no longer be access to exterior hose spigots at the developments. Residents do not pay for water at these developments, and there was a continuing issue with vehicles being washed and small pools being filled. The management company which runs these developments for BMHA (Cornerstone Property management) made the decision that the water bills had reached a point where they were simply too high for the practice to be continued.*

The concern continues as residents of the Frederick Douglass Townhouses report their outdoor water spigots have been capped as well. And, it has been conveyed to me that water is included in the townhouse leases.

Amid a global pandemic and rising summer temperatures, I must question the logic and legality of this decision. The management company for the BMHA made the decision? Was there no role for the BMHA and its Board to actively engage with residents as to the problem before a memo was sent saying the outside water spigots would be disconnected?

I am interested in understanding how Cornerstone Property Management operates in such matters and urge an immediate review and reconsideration of this decision. Thank you for your attention and response to this most serious issue.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

CC: Hon. Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Majority Leader, NYS Assembly, Assembly District 141
Hon. Timothy Kennedy, NYS Senate, District 63
Hon. Darius G. Pridgen, President, Buffalo Common Council, Ellicott District
Hon. Howard Johnson, Erie County Legislator, District 1
Leonard Skrill, Upstate Development Director, NYSHCR

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