

# The Mullen Legacy

<http://www.contracabal.org/801-02.html>

---

*The National Council of Jewish Women built and refurbished the Council House, a residence for senior citizens on Capitol Hill, Seattle. They obtained federal financial assistance through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the original construction and rehabilitation. The Directors currently employ an Acting Administrator (Stephen Mitchell) who must comply with HUD Directive #4381.5 when managing the building and dealing with residents.*

---

Wednesday, May 17, 2000, Mark Mullen announced his resignation as administrator and director of Council House, Inc. a nonprofit corporation. He sang a heart-rending swan song citing the primary reason for leaving as a need for an increase in salary. This despite receiving a \$5,104.00 (10.63%) increase this year and a "generous holiday gift" from the Council House board at the end of 1999. Less than 30% of the residents attended the meeting.

Mullen, and incidentally Grace Burton his personal pandering pygmy, subjected the gathering to a one-hour, self-interested exaggeration in keeping with Mullen's normal doublespeak. Mullen has taken a job as administrator, Fred Lind Manor, Seattle, apparently a division of Fairview Baptist Ministries. By his own description, he will become a small cog in a large wheel.

Mullen announced the appointment of Stephen Mitchell, social service director, as the acting administrator. Mitchell responded to a question by admitting that he does not have a financial background. Hopefully the board of directors will appoint a qualified accountant to help him before administrative matters deteriorate any further. Mitchell has inherited the Mullen legacy.

The National Council of Jewish Women created this corporation to build and refurbish the Council House, a residence for senior citizens on Capitol Hill, Seattle. They obtained federal financial assistance through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the original construction and rehabilitation. The Council House directors have employed Mullen as both administrator and director for fourteen years, ostensibly creating a conflict of interest. He has consistently neglected to comply with HUD Directive #4381.5 when managing the building and dealing with residents by that violating federal laws and resident rights.

Mullen, an aging yuppie, has consistently denied knowledge of situations that negatively affect residents and distributed disinformation to cover up his neglect. He has employed an oligarchic political philosophy by claiming absolute power. As an oligarch, he has acted in his own interests and excluded the welfare of the people whom he managed. He has remained disconnected from his public and out-of-touch with democratic reality and the members of this special community.

The Council House on Capitol Hill, Seattle, claims to offer first-class accommodations at modest rentals. Advertisements claim that the facility has rooms with a view, comfort, security, companionship, and independence. However, a lack of security coupled with Mullen's procrastination and neglect has allowed a minority of residents to break rules and violate laws. His lack of response to human needs has put residents in danger and has caused a hazard to health and property. Moreover, the directors have consistently pursued a laissez-faire policy that has allowed this situation to deteriorate for several years.

The security problem has reached a stage where residents should ask whether someone must suffer a violent death before the board of directors takes action. Disturbances have already erupted that have caused the police to take people away in handcuffs. Residents do not report rule infractions because they know that Mullen will not do anything about them. Their reticence probably relates to his hostile reaction to complaints and a history of procrastination and kill-the-messenger techniques that make appeals fruitless.

The *Resident Handbook* claims that Council House employs security personnel to provide extra safety to residents. However, the two people bartering free accommodation for

services act only as desk clerks and not as security guards. They apparently have no credentials for security work and one allegedly acts illegally.

Moreover, the board of directors has equal responsibilities and liabilities whether they hire uniformed security guards from an agency or employ people who live-in and wear civilian clothes. Security employees who live-in have usually trained as in-house security guards. Calling security guards by other names does not reduce exposure to civil liability. They have identical duties and responsibilities. The only differences between them relate to whether they wear uniforms and who pays them.

Reason dictates that if the administrator issues unit or master keys then he should know the background of the person to whom he issues them. Minimum employment criteria require checking job references and criminal background to insure against future liability. A plethora of background screening services and private investigators exists for this purpose. Whether he has checked backgrounds or not, Mullen has failed to call the police or properly investigate thefts within the building. Especially, he has ignored thefts allegedly committed by one of his "security employees." That individual still possesses master keys to the building and to all of the apartments.

Nmesis will not detail here the lax security for fear of giving criminals assistance. Suffice to say that many nonresidents frequently enter the building during the night using master pass keys, access cards, and digital combinations. Of course, they do not sign in. Several teenagers in the area possess the digital code for the front door. Former employees had access to master keys and codes during their Council House employment. However, management apparently did not undertake background checks and did not change the locks when they left unexpectedly.

Mullen has claimed that the cameras in the lobby protect residents. Any reasonable person knows that cameras do not dissuade drug addicts and only record activity. They do not prevent crime. This has become evident from the number of thefts and disturbances. Moreover, anyone can don a yarmulke and gain entrance to the building through the basement synagogue. That door, in keeping with others, does not have a camera installed which nullifies the effect that cameras anywhere in the building can have as a recording mechanism.

A visitor bringing a resident groceries could not get into the building. He left the groceries in the outer lobby while he went to the gas station to telephone the resident to ask him to open the door. The groceries had gone when he returned a few minutes later. The resident asked for access to the security video to identify the thief that had robbed him. Mullen apparently refused by saying that the camera does not record that: more Mullenium doublespeak.

The Council House operating statement<sup>1</sup> claims expenditure and budgeted expenditures for Security Payroll/Contract as \$18,966.00 (1998/99) and \$23,400.00 (1999/00), respectively. Yet the Council House employs neither security guards nor contracts with a security company for services. Perhaps the directors should explain where that money went.

Council House has virtually no security. The volunteer desk clerks and "bartered bridegrooms" finish duty most days at approximately 9:00pm. Visitors do not sign in voluntarily as management should expect. Nonresidents with access codes stay in studio apartments with relatives and let their "girl-friends" (described as whores by a resident) into the building

without recording their entry. A transient sleeps in the outer lobby most nights without anyone questioning him.

Consequently, Council House claims to a secure building rank as misleading at best and fraudulent at worst. A secure building requires detailed post orders. Patrol instructions form part of any contract with security guards and strict patrol compliance standards form an important part of building security. The accepted standard includes one-hour patrols three times a night between 8:00pm and 4:00am with strict accountability. Between 11:00pm and 7:00am would probably work best with Council House. Strict accountability means documenting the patrol pattern with detailed written activity logs filed at the end of each shift. These should cover all areas of the property. Residents must know how to contact a security guard anywhere and anytime during an emergency.<sup>2</sup>

These standard conditions do not exist at Council House and may have allowed the burglary incidents and a recent car theft. Moreover, the panhandlers in the parking lot go unchallenged and the noise pollution reaches intolerable levels through lack of rule enforcement. The latest spate of thefts relates to newspapers that disappear from hallways soon after delivery. In addition, the thefts of cutlery and furniture from public areas also computer equipment from storage lockers has reached significant levels.

Several times emergency crews could not enter the building and had to break down the front entrance doors. Recently, a visitor sounded an automobile horn for more than five minutes at 3:00am to attract a resident's attention. Apparently, he or she could not find a security guard to gain access to the building. This could have correlated with a life or death emergency.

Mullen has claimed that the front desk personnel work from 5:00pm through 10:00pm. Frequently, one cannot find anybody during those hours and the desk often closes long before 10:00pm. Both residents and nonresidents enter and leave the building at will, some of them through emergency exits using pass keys. Residents' maids and visitors enter during the night with front-door pass keys to use the laundry machines despite rules that do not allow them into the building between 10:00pm and 5:00am. No security guard then no security.

Clearly, the "bartered bridegrooms" that Mullen describes as security employees neither perform the duties nor have the qualifications to act as security guards. When residents try to contact them during the night, they frequently hear a voice mail message. They have to call a private number (if they know it) to awaken him then consistently receive a belligerent response for disturbing him. The other individual has an acceptable disposition but evidently does not meet the standards for a security guard.

The belligerent individual apparently has a personal stake that creates a conflict between his duties and his personal obligations to certain residents when it comes to reporting rule violations. He provides virtually no protection to residents and does not enforce noise abatement rules. If a competent security guard patrolled the building then the nuisance residents would stop in their tracks to avoid exposure. Repeated transgressions would give Mullen a legitimate reason to issue eviction notices. Instead, he has hissy fits and uses flippant eviction threats each time that he gets his boxer shorts in a twist.

One would expect the president of the residents' council to respond to complaints. However, the impotence of the residents' council, that operates contrary to law, extends the laissez-faire of the Council House directors. This improperly

constituted council meets as a glee club that spends its time singing its own songs. It does not represent the interests of residents. Instead its self-appointed officers (appointed by affiliation instead of democratic election) pander to the Mullen oligarchy. Both Knate Stahl, "President" and Mary Lou Saul "Secretary" have consistently denied access to minutes of resident council meetings.

These individuals refuse to follow specific procedures mandated by HUD. For example, they neglect to send out to the membership a notice of call for each meeting and to circulate an agenda. This precludes choice by members who may have an interest in attending a meeting that addresses a specific topic. Moreover, members do not know which meeting deals with the nomination of officers and which relates to an election. Consequently, the composition of the nominating committee and the elections bear no resemblance to HUD mandates. Sometimes the president allows Mullen to attend and to speak contrary to all accepted protocol.

Mullen has spent more time tracking the source of dog and cat shit in the garbage room than he has on security and theft problems. Sam, the resident black and tan coonhound examined the area that Mullen complained about and used his inherent analytical skills to identify the source. In his expert opinion, the excrement did not have either canine or feline origins. Instead, he found by nasal analysis that the sample had a high drug and alcohol content. To conform with federal guidelines, he has declined to reveal race, gender, or national origin although he has hinted at a Celtic connection. Moreover, he denies any bias or conflict of interest in accord with the Mullen doctrine.

It did not take Sam long to learn Mullenium doublespeak and to join the oligarchy. Like Mullen, he abandoned his ethics for self-interest that resulted in extra rations provided by management. Mullen will leave Council House and, hopefully, take his negative influence with him. Sam will undergo anthropomorphic rehabilitation.

Council House can accomplish its stated goals if the Council House directors enforce the rules and the law by employing qualified security guards. Then, with validated reports, they can make judgments regarding what action to take within the HUD mandate. The board has still done nothing about the noise pollution reported in *Disconnected: Life in a Seattle Squirrel Cage*.

Ignoring security problems and adopting laissez-faire policies when incidents occur place both people and property in danger. Concurrently, the residents must, by law, democratically elect a board of directors for a registered residents' association using the HUD model.<sup>3</sup> They must remove the pandering pygmies that now run the self-serving glee club and replace it with a lawful entity that allows all residents to freely voice complaints without coercion.

*Nmesis.* **Full Text** <http://www.contracabal.org/801-02.html>

---

Mullen, the registered agent for Council House, has continued to refuse access to public information. He has also refused to provide a copy of the list of directors' names and addresses previously published in the *Council House Residents Handbook* and now deleted from it. Nmesis, an accredited journalist, used the Washington State Public Disclosure Act (RCW 42.17) and the US Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552) to obtain that information. From Government sources he also obtained all state and federal documents needed to verify the statistical and supporting data published in this essay.

---

1. *Housing Assistance Payments Renewal Contract 524(a)(1), Attachment 4 of H98-34*, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
2. Chris E. McGoey, *Security Adequate . . . or Not?* (Aegis Books), 1990.
3. *Directive #4381.5 (Rev-2)*, US Department of Housing and Urban Development,.