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19 May 00/09:40

[By Fax and US Mail]

Donald R. Silverman, MD
Director
Council House
3718 48 Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Dr. Silverman:

Mullen held a meeting Wednesday, May 17, 2000, at which he and Grace Burton (#901) incited the residents to violence by calling for peer pressure to ostracize other residents. I openly tape recorded the proceedings. The sixty-minute tape contains about thirty minutes during which Burton "shilled" for Mullen to help him achieve this objective.

I have seen the results of that incitement yesterday and today. Some residents known for their violence in the past have decided to use the situation to provoke and violently to threaten other residents. By his statements, Mullen has declared open season on me and anyone seen talking to me.

This type of confrontation comes with the investigative journalism territory. It does not worry me personally and these individuals write my next article for me. With my military commando and Tai Chi training I can probably protect myself. My concern relates more to the anarchy that Mullen has incited to intimidate people for his own purposes. It allows resident thugs to take advantage of the situation. I refer to a history of intimidation and violence at Council House.

For example, Thursday, May 18, 2000, 17:05, Marty Cozwith (#508) threatened me, and another resident because he associated with me. I had returned from a walk with my dog. He threatened to kick the resident that accompanied me and his companion issued nationalistic epithets. He raised his boot and we backed off. The "security" person sat at the desk about twelve feet away and did nothing.

Friday, May 19, 2000, 07:20, a nonresident, accosted me in the street outside Council House. When I demanded his name, he gave it as Michael Johnson. He lives with Glenn Thompson (#706), a resident allegedly as his lover. He attacked another resident several years ago that ended with

a hospitalization and police involvement. Despite this incident, Mullen has not since banned him from the building and he lives at Council House with his partner more than the stay allowed for visitors. For some obscure reason, he said that he had called the police about me yesterday although the police never contacted me. In a way, I wish they had. This person's uncouth dress, obscene language, and bodily smell, would disqualify him from legitimately residing in the building. Yet he has free reign over it and can intimidate whomever he wishes. Both these experiences during the last twenty-four hours relate to semiliterate people who cannot communicate and resort to violence as a form of expression: they classify as thugs.

During the past few months, I have made the issues abundantly clear to your administrators. I hope that the board of directors has read my essays and the associated correspondence. However, nothing has happened to alleviate the problems. I have taken the time over almost six months to record the infractions of law, the denial of civil rights, and the aberrant behavior of a few people. I have also documented the actions of a small anarchist group that Mullen has probably cultivated for his own protection and to cover up his own incompetence.

Moreover, I have investigated the administrative and fiscal structures and found them wanting both at Council House and HUD. This situation has existed for at least six years and documents show that it has gone on for much longer. I have prepared files for when a prosecutor may need them and will publish my findings in due course.

However, my paramount concern remains the safety, comfort, and civil rights of the residents. Mullen has subjected them to abuse and frivolous threats of eviction if they complain. I have discovered many complaints over the past few years that Mullen has not recorded as required by law nor addressed humanely. He has acted as an oligarch supported by a small coterie of the residents some of them allegedly with psychiatric problems. That constituency coerces other residents without consideration for their frailty or state of mind. Although oligarchy and anarchy do not normally share the same space, Mullen has managed to cultivate their coexistence.

The board has now appointed a "nice guy" as acting administrator and the situation has deteriorated during his first day in that job. The staff has already fallen apart. Occurrences this week have resulted in a woman locking herself in her office and a worried daughter calling frequently to see how she feels. Another woman has informed residents that she will quit when she finds another job. I have worked with both these women during the past eighteen months and found them both rational and logical. Mullen has treated them ruthlessly and inhumanely.

I consider that the board has both a moral and an ethical responsibility to take charge of the situation. The resident population contains a group of highly intelligent, educated people who have maintained their silence to avoid confrontation. However, some have exhausted their patience. The board members must credit Mullen with skills as a master of doublespeak even if it hurts them to acknowledge that he may have deceived them. It must meet its statutory

obligations before violence erupts. I do not say that the sky will fall in, I leave that to Chicken Little, however, the board has a very serious situation that it must face.

Mitchell has told some people today that he plans to give me an eviction warning for making the Council House problems public. He apparently does not understand the function of journalists. He classifies my essays as causing a disturbance. He should find them personally disturbing but not actionable. In any event, the board would eventually have to prove malice where none exists. Therefore, I suggest that the board direct him not to issue that warning. Remember that the fourth estate usually acts when both management and government fail to meet their responsibilities concerning public money. Council House has accepted, and continues to accept, large amounts of federal money. Consequently, the board of directors has a responsibility not only to its residents but to the taxpayer that funded the building and subsidizes the rents.

A politically correct board of directors may not like the genre that I use, however, it does not have a choice but to accept it. It does have a choice whether it takes what I say seriously. I suggest that it heed what I have published in my essays and what I have written here. I have a greater interest in the common good than publishing copy about the negative aspects of Council House. Moreover, I always give my subjects three opportunities to mitigate negative circumstances. The Council House board of directors has already had its three strikes. I would like to start reporting some of the positive aspects.

For example, I will report that following the publication of my essay *Life in a Seattle Squirrel Cage* the noise level decreased measurably. Eighteen of the twenty-four offenders modified their behavior, significantly, the people who had repeatedly transgressed at low decibel levels. The remaining six high-decibel people have continued their aberrant behavior. Another patrol May 18 confirmed these findings. One will never know whether this behavioral change occurred from force majeure, publication of the article, or from resident fear of discovery.

However, the extremists persist and continue to disturb other people. If the board appoints one of its members to investigate then take action against those six individuals then I will give that member the names, apartment numbers, and dates of the transgressions. However, I must have an undertaking that he or she will not just take my word but will patrol the building between 03:00am and 05:00 to listen for themselves. Otherwise, I will turn my files over to the appropriate authorities and insist upon the action that I have described previously.

The turnover in residents has evidently increased by a factor of six during the past ten years. Several of the more sophisticated, educated residents, from a variety of ethnic and national backgrounds, have already placed their names on waiting lists at other facilities. They intend to leave when it suits them. I would suggest that the board will not only have the domestic crisis that exists now but will soon have a fiscal crisis if the turnover does not decrease. The cost of repairs, cleanup, defaulted rents, and eviction proceedings, will far exceed the short term gain of

admitting residents who do not meet the basic criteria for human decency. If the board lets the building deteriorate into a dosshouse then they should expect the present residents to start an exodus.

Dr. Silverman, the board of directors has choices. I have given them a schedule of problems that a competent administrator could fix. If the board does not wish to roll up its sleeves and involve itself in the daily operation of the Council House to clean up the mess then it must act now. It must resolve both the resident and legal problems.

I respectfully suggest that a management company skilled in managing this type of property may give the board an answer. Eighty out of eighty-four similar properties in the Seattle area employ management companies. I will publish another edition of *Disconnected*, probably next week. I suggest that the board not only take some action but insure that my readers can see that they have taken it.

Sincerely,

Paul Trummel

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International Federation of Journalists, Brussels (Press Card #GB 6929)

National Union of Journalists, London (Press Card #025057)

National Writers Union, New York (UAW Local 1981/AFL-CIO)

Investigative Reporters and Editors, Columbia, Missouri. (#21107)

Society of Professional Journalists, Greencastle, Indiana (#491793)

Cc- Richard R. Beresford, Attorney-at-Law
Bradley K. Spear, Director, Attorney-at-Law