

STEVE COHEN
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

2404 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265
FAX: (202) 225-5663

CLIFFORD DAVIS/ODELL HORTON
FEDERAL BUILDING
167 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 369
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131
FAX: (901) 544-4329

www.cohen.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE - RANKING MEMBER
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
AVIATION
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Julian Castro
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

I read with great concern this weekend recent reports¹ that described alarming conditions in federally subsidized-housing in Memphis. According to an article a unit in the Warren Apartments in Memphis had holes in the walls made by rats, exposed electrical wiring, broken windows, no working lights, a moldy bathroom, a leaky roof and doors missing knobs. The article also reported similar conditions at the Goodwill Village apartments in Memphis.

As a champion for safe, affordable housing, I am sure you will agree this is unacceptable. I spoke with John Gemmill, the Director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") Field Office in Memphis, and he also shares my concerns with the conditions at the properties.

Given these concerns, I would respectfully request answers to the following questions:

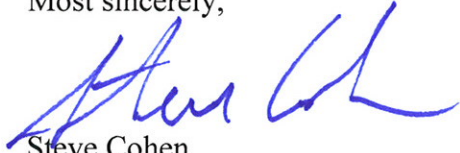
1. What is the Department doing to ensure that the apartments in Memphis are brought up to code?
2. Does the Department have sufficient resources to alleviate the concerns and assist the residents at Warren and Goodwill Village apartments?
3. Do you believe HUD, the Department of Treasury, or the Department of Justice would be the proper agency to investigate published allegations that family employees of Global Ministry Foundation Chief Executive Officer were not disclosed as employees on Internal Revenue forms as required?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and for your continued commitment to strong, sustainable neighborhoods.

¹ 4/12/15 Memphis Commercial Appeal, "Apartments suffer as nonprofit owner shifts funds to mission work"
4/9/15 WHBQ-TV, "City And Religious Group Have Stake In Infested Apartments"

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping tail.

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress