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House of Representatives commonwealth of pennsylvania harrisburg

March 29, 2023

Maria L. Bynum Acting, Regional Administrator U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development The Wanamaker Building 100 Penn Square East Philadelphia, PA 19107

Freedom of Information Act Request re: Johnstown (Pa.) Housing Authority

Dear Ms. Bynum:

Please consider this an official request for information under the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). I am a Pennsylvania state representative in Cambria County, Pa., and my request concerns the Johnstown Housing Authority and its Prospect public housing community, whose tenants were recently given 30 days' notice to vacate the premises due to unspecified "structural issues."

I am asking for:

 Copies of any and all documents and communication (including but not limited to emails, inspection reports and requests/directives/approvals) exchanged between the Johnstown (Pa.) Housing Authority, HUD's Pittsburgh Field Office and/or HUD's Region III Office in Philadelphia, from the period of Jan. 1, 2023 to the date of your receipt of this request, concerning the Johnstown Housing Authority's Prospect housing complex.

This sudden forced exodus of an entire public housing community has created much angst and turmoil in Cambria County -- with many unanswered questions and significant news coverage – so I am asking that you strongly consider granting a fee waiver for this information, as it most assuredly "is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government," per your qualifications for granting such a waiver.

If you choose not to comply with this request, please state your legal objections in writing.

Also, if you desire any clarification or have any questions regarding this FOIA request, please contact me.

Yours in public service,

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State Rep. Frank Burns 119 S. Center St. Ebensburg, PA 15931-1623 (814) 472-8021