

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

May 24, 2016

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

My office has been involved in the investigation of Eureka Garden Apartments (Eureka Garden), a Section 8 housing complex in Jacksonville, Florida. Over the years, residents have listed many complaints about the living conditions at this facility. In the last six months, residents have been threatened with evictions, hospitalized due to gas leaks, and suffered extended exposure to mold. When I visited Eureka Garden on May 13th to survey these conditions, I spoke with residents and witnessed the physical deficiencies at the property.

The owner of Eureka Garden is a nonprofit called Global Ministries Foundation (GMF). This group operates over 60 apartment complexes in eight states across the country and receives over \$6 million annually for its Jacksonville operations. The group has also claimed intense bidding competitions for their properties upon the news of a potential sale. With this much supposed value in GMF and its assets, GMF's unwillingness to take the health risks at their properties seriously is reprehensible. Furthermore, I am concerned about the lack of transparency surrounding their operations. Since GMF's creation, it has engaged in a number of questionable practices. For instance, it has been reported that GMF failed to disclose that family members of the CEO, Richard Hamlet, received compensation from the organization. GMF has also repeatedly claimed investments totaling "millions" of dollars in repairs while many of its properties fell into disrepair. GMF has received millions of dollars in federal funding, raised hundreds of millions in municipal bonds, and claims exceedingly high property values – yet they can't seem to find the money to maintain a decent standard of living at their facilities.

I therefore request that the Justice Department open an investigation into Eureka Garden, its management, and other properties under GMF's ownership. If any civil or criminal laws have been violated by either private parties or government inspectors, I urge the Department to take appropriate action.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator