

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



P.O. Box 30736
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

DANA NESSEL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 10, 2022

Steven D. Sallen
Maddin Hauser Roth & Heller, P.C.
28400 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 200
Southfield, MI 48034

RE: Nottingham Forest Mobile Home Park

Dear Mr. Sallen:

Thanks to you and your client, Richard Puzzuoli, for taking time earlier this week to speak with Special Agent Jeff Campbell, Assistant Attorney General Michael Hill and I. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss information our office received about alleged post-tornado demolition occurring at Nottingham Forest.

During our conversation, you and your client assured us there has been no bulldozing. But Mr. Puzzuoli did elaborate that there has been a clearing of what he termed "rubble" so that properties could be restored for future tenants. Based on our conversation it is our understanding that your client has received verbal consent from each tenant prior to clearing any homes and/or debris from each lot. It is also our understanding that your client has documented the storm damage present at each lot with pictures and/or videos prior to any clean-up. Richard said that approximately 15 lots have been cleared thus far, with five more lots to be cleared soon.

We expressed to you our concern about this purported process that relies on verbal consent instead of documentation showing appropriate notice and express consent from tenants prior to any clearing of any lots. Your client suggested that written notice had been given through a letter that sought responses from tenants, but that such responses were not received. You supplied a copy of that letter after our meeting.

Upon review, the letter does not seem to provide meaningful notice of the type of clean-up efforts referenced in our discussion. Nor does the letter notify tenants about securing their personal belongings. Instead, the letter simply states, "tree and debris cleanup is ongoing to be followed with infrastructure repairs to the water, sewer, gas, and electricity lines."

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Our concern is that residents were not given any notice or opportunity to secure personal belongings before they were scooped up in the debris clearing. Appreciating that the situation at Nottingham Forrest was both unforeseen and unfortunate, the loss of a home comes with it the potential loss of a lifetime's worth of belongings. Such property includes the necessities of clothing and cash, and the comforts of photographs, memorabilia, and family heirlooms. The letter explaining that "debris" was going to be cleaned up in no way embraces both the monetary or emotional value of the property implicated in this tragic matter. We are thus left wondering whether the "rubble" that Mr. Puzzuoli kept referring to might also have included salvageable treasures, even if that value is known only in the hearts of their owners. A fair opportunity for recovery in the wake of such tragic circumstances is thus the prudent course pointed to by any compass. And so we appreciate Mr. Puzzuoli's willingness to change his process as relates to the balance of the clean-up.

Based upon the facts known at this time, this Office does not intend to take further action. We will revisit that decision should new facts come to light requiring such reflection. Meanwhile, we encourage you to maintain all photographs and video related to the site conditions before clean-up, as well as any text messages and phone records relating to the verbal consents described in our conversation.

Despite our concerns as expressed above, we also emphasize our appreciation for the opportunity for the discussion. We know, too, that this tornado damaged the property of Nottingham Forest, and has created challenges for that business presumably unlike any it has faced before. We wish a successful recovery to Nottingham Forest and all of its residents.

We understand, based on our conversation, that moving forward your client will acquire written consent from the tenants on those remaining five lots before proceeding with any clearing or demolition.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr. Hill. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Darrin F. Fowler
Assistant Attorney General
Corporate Oversight Division
Ph: 517-335-7632