



**Chicago Housing Authority  
Board of Commissioners Public Session  
November 17, 2020 – CHA Central Office, 60 E. Van Buren**

	Name	Question/Comment	Response
1	Suzy Martin	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to tell my story. And thank you for the opportunity to serve the Chicago Housing Authority as one of the few minority-owned and only woman-owned elevator repair business in Illinois.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I have been smeared with baseless accusations of bribery from the state's Office of the Executive Inspector General and I write to clear my name with you. Despite a federal jury finding me not guilty of all counts, the state's OEIG refuses to drop their findings. And that is unfairly tarnishing my reputation.</p> <p>I am respectfully asking you to clear me to continue to work for you. I am completely innocent of all of the accusations of bribery the state OEIG made against me. A federal jury agreed. I sincerely hope you will as well. My union company has worked on two jobs so far with excellent reports: Castleman and Hedger in 2019. After the elevator in the Castleman building was down for three months, we fixed the job in 20 minutes. I perform every job with excellence and at lower costs than my competitors. Attached please find voluminous documents for the record that explain my innocence for your staff to review at your convenience. I am happy to answer and explain anything and everything to you - including my mistakes in trying to expand my business and hiring the wrong person to do so. But my mistakes are neither illegal nor unethical and my company's record of performance of superior quality at a lower cost is a fact accepted by all parties - even the U.S. Attorney.</p> <p>In our country, we presume innocence. And we also believe in second chances. I promise I won't let you down. Thank you for the opportunity to share my story with you.</p> <p>P.S. During our work on Castleman and Hedger we suggested a way the Authority can save millions on overtime costs with elevator repair vendors by changing the specifications. In case those suggestions haven't been incorporated yet, I am submitting them as an attachment.</p>	<p>Thank you, we will take your comments under consideration.</p>

2	Sylvia Johnson	<p>My Name is Sylvia Johnson, I live on the Southside of Chicago. My occupation is working as a Security Officer. I'm writing to inform you, my serious concern with Security Officers and also all Essential Worker working daily throughout this pandemic with serious needs. For example PPE, and a Union. My residence is also a part of CHA. I mention this, due to my concerns with tenants have minimum resources to function cautiously, through today new norm. For example, Security Officers, and also all Essential Workers working in Residential, and also Warehouses Etc. Places should be provided with materials to keep safe while performing their job duties. Such as masks, gloves, and health care insurance to protect them while working.</p> <p>There are many more concerns I have. CHA should step up with Tenants all work orders in Housing's. Many years of complaints, with little to no solutions. I would appreciate it if those Tenants and CHA Residencies complaints and requests be fixed. For example providing CHA Maintenance Team with the proper training and tools to fix the Residences all over the city. These complaints may be small some, but major to many CHA Tenants and also every Essential Worker in The state of Illinois. Thank you for your time out reading this.</p>	<p>We thank you for your continued effort during these trying times. It is the responsibility of your employer to provide any PPE you need to perform your job duties. CHA has and will continue to reinforce with all contractors that they must provide PPE for all employees working on CHA property. CHA takes safety seriously and has distributed PPE to its residents and staff.</p> <p>If you have specific work order issues, please contact your property manager to have the issue assessed and addressed.</p>
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3	Shawna Spraggins	<p>My name is Shawna Spraggins and I'm an SEIU Local 1 member who has lived at CHA for quite a while, having spent 15 years at my current site. I have also worked at CHA for a long time under the Section 3 program and have held a variety of jobs such as work order clerk, leasing assistant, admin assistant and file clerk. Currently I'm a janitor with Habitat at 150 S. Campbell where I've been the past three years. I clean and sanitize all the washrooms and community areas, do snow removal and salt and more. I love my job and serving the tenants. Especially now during the COVID era janitors like me are essential to stopping the spread of this virus.</p> <p>When the pandemic started we didn't get PPE right away, but because we have a voice on the job my co-workers and I were able to fight to get the PPE we needed to protect ourselves and the tenants. However, the same can't be said about the security officers in my building, who don't have a union and aren't provided with PPE. In fact, on multiple occasions I've shared my PPE with the security officers because they don't get what they need, putting us all at risk.</p> <p>This shows how union contractors provide stronger protections for their workers which then translates to a safer living environment for tenants and community members. Until workers have a voice on the job to fight for the PPE and protections they need, the CHA will not be able to adequately handle COVID-19.</p> <p>In order to keep tenants safe, the CHA must not repeat what happened with Manage Chicago who displaced nearly a dozen long-term employees with non-union workers operating under lower standards. I urge the CHA to ensure workers have voice on the job so workers and tenants can stay protected.</p>	<p>CHA has and will continue to reinforce with its contractors that they must provide PPE for all employees working on CHA property.</p> <p>CHA has no role in any negotiations between a union and a vendor.</p> <p>Thank you for your comments.</p>
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4	Michael Hicks, Calvin Lee, Khenyae Hampton, David Brandon	<p>We, the undersigned former maintenance workers at Region 4 scatter sites, urge the CHA to remove irresponsible contractor Manage Chicago who earlier this year laid off nearly a dozen long-term employees. With decades of experience, we knew the buildings inside and out and had developed very close relationships with the tenants who trusted us to provide the best building maintenance we could. We worked hard to build a home for these residents so they could feel safe and comfortable. No one wants a stranger in their home, especially during a pandemic. Despite this, Manage Chicago refused to retain any of us - all Black and Latinx frontline workers.</p> <p>The CHA has a responsibility to ensure the safety and health of its tenants and lift communities out of poverty, especially during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. However, at a time when essential workers should be receiving more support and protections, we were displaced and replaced with workers operating at lower standards, leaving tenants confused and upset. This puts everyone at CHA from the tenants, workers, and the broader community at risk as a highly contagious disease continues to spread.</p> <p>These kinds of clear mistakes must not happen again. We urge the CHA to work with contractors who will operate under high standards, ensure employees a voice on the job and protect all workers amidst this unprecedented crisis.</p>	<p>Hiring and retaining property management employees is the responsibility of each individual property management firm. CHA does not dictate who each firm must hire or whether or not those employees are union employees. Any union agreements regarding these employees are held by the property management firm, not CHA, and CHA is not a party to these agreements.</p> <p>Thank you for your comments.</p>
5	Tamiko Holt	<p>I've sent emails to Chairperson Hurlock, CEO Scott and Board of Commissioners with a list of issues regarding Small Section 3 contractors doing business in this space with no response whatsoever. Did you have any attentions on addressing the concerns and issues I raised?</p> <p>On your property's you take little to no consideration for safety of the contractors, why is that? It seems as though the Agency is going out of its way to make it difficult for SMALL BLACK companies to do business, in every way.</p>	<p>CHA staff has reached out to Ms. Holt directly to address her Section 3 concerns.</p> <p>CHA takes safety seriously. If you have a safety concern regarding work performed on CHA property, please reach out to your Construction Manager to discuss so it can be addressed.</p> <p>Thank you for your comments.</p>
6	Carla Jackson	<p>The call center takes an hour to answer your calls and sometimes they give you the wrong information and you have to call right back and get right back in line on the phone. That's another hour, and Ms. Yancey have not returned my calls since June it's been 5 months and I still have not heard from her. That's a serious problem you all need to address this (ASAP.) Thank you for taking my comment.</p>	<p>CHA staff has reached out to Ms. Jackson. We believe Ms. Jackson's questions and concerns have been addressed.</p>