

Aug. 8, 2016

The Honorable Julián Castro
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 10000, Mail Stop S
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Castro,

I am writing to request that the Department of Housing and Urban Development increase its efforts to address ongoing problems at Eureka Gardens apartment complex in Jacksonville, Florida and two other federally-subsidized properties that Global Ministries Foundation currently owns in Florida and is reportedly trying to sell.

In October 2015, city inspectors in Jacksonville found deplorable living conditions at Eureka Gardens – including mold, deteriorating stairwells and plumbing problems throughout the property. Federal inspectors who later visited the site also found evidence of these issues.

Global Ministries Foundation, a non-profit organization that owns the Eureka Gardens complex and 16 other federally-subsidized housing properties in Florida, has recently become the focus of an ongoing HUD Inspector General investigation. And just last week, the HUD Inspector General's office served a search warrant at GMF's headquarters in Tennessee.

While GMF has decided to put Eureka Gardens and two other Florida properties up for sale, I am concerned that the current investigation – as well as the impending sale of these three properties – may be taking GMF's attention away from the current needs of the tenants who live there. To ensure the safety and well-being of the residents living there, I strongly urge that your department increase its oversight of all three properties until new owners and management teams are in place.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely

Bill Nelson