

Sharon Lee, Executive Director
Low Income Housing Institute
2407 First Avenue
Seattle WA 98121

August 11, 2015

Dear Ms. Lee,

My colleague Karen Morris and I have been following the saga of LIHI and homeless camps for several years. Earlier this year we saw your name in February 7 *Seattle Times* news story about the Nickelsville Dearborn homeless camp. The story was about a shake-up at Nickelsville that had occurred a week earlier. At that time, the campers had voted your associate Scott Morrow out of his position as head of the camp, and you are described in the story as using your influence as manager of the LIHI (which is a financial supporter of the camp, according to you) to reverse the campers' decision and keep Mr. Morrow in charge.

Ms. Morris and I would like to meet with you to discuss just what happened in that incident. For example, we would like to know whether you met with the disgruntled homeless campers to learn what their complaints against Mr. Morrow were, and if so, what did they say? We would also like to know what financial support you were giving the camp and how that money was accounted for on your books. Our concern is that LIHI might be using taxpayer-provided money to exert influence on homeless people living in Mr. Morrow's camps. We know that LIHI operates under stringent laws to assure protection for the vulnerable people under its care, and since there are currently no safeguards in place to protect the people in Mr. Morrow's camps, it may be advisable for you to disengage your organization from these camps until safeguards *are* established. Or even to disassociate yourself from Mr. Morrow's operations all together.

In the past, I've sent you and your CFO, Lynne Behar, letters and e-mails asking you to provide me with financial records regarding specific aspects of your homeless operations, but no response was forthcoming. Other friends have reported the same experience. I hope you won't choose to take that course this time, because if you do, I will have to bring the matter up with the Mayor's office, with the City Council, and with the media.

Please contact me via e-mail, telephone, or post so we can set something up. You may have a lawyer present if you wish.

Regards,

David Preston

[address info redacted]