

The leadership team of Charlevoix Villages Association (CVA) discussed the City's proposed Housing Fair for the Islandview Area. The purpose of this letter is to communicate our concerns and ideas for this event. As things stand now, this Housing Fair can only be treated as a cheap political ploy by Duggan's administration to give the pretense of providing for long-term residents and engaging with our concerns, without actually doing anything substantive. Long-term residents deserve more than this. Our time is precious, and our needs and desires are significant.

Our members are aware of many of the programs listed by the the City and have either applied and received these benefits, or did not qualify for them. These programs are not enough, and we have said that time and time again.

We are challenging the City to put its money where its mouth is; if it believes that these programs can be potentially beneficial to residents, it should use the Housing Fair to prove it.

The City needs to provide residents with a list of documents required for each program at the Fair ("etc" won't do). You know that the process of applying for each of these programs is quite tedious, so the City should work to correct that.

We also want the City to document and make public data about the housing fair. We need data on:

- The number of residents who attend the fair and apply for each specific program;
- Each attendee's stated need that brought them to the Fair (what do people need?);
- How many residents were eligible for each program, how many stated need but were ineligible and why they were ineligible, how many applicants actually receive assistance; and how quickly they receive resources.

The City needs to begin the process of seriously evaluating its commitment to the community it is supposed to serve by being truthful about whether the resources it offers are actually beneficial to residents.

It is quite clear to us that members of the Housing Department have little to no knowledge about the lives of long-term residents. You don't know our struggles, or even our history, very well. It is an exhausting experience living and surviving in Detroit. Neglect takes a toll on you. We have had members apply for program after program with nothing real to show for it. Sometimes we don't even hear back on whether we qualified for a program or not. If we are denied, there are no efforts to help us qualify for the next round of program money. We do not want to waste the energy of our members, nor take them through the painful process of "paperwork" if nothing comes of it.

To be clear, if the City cannot implement our suggestions, then we cannot treat this resource fair as anything but a political ploy of the administration to say it's doing something when it's really not.