



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
366 Le Conte Hall # 7300
TEL: 510/642-8358
FAX: 510/643-8497

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-7300

April 19, 2007

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Mr. Herb Behrstock, President
UNA USA East Bay Chapter
1403 B Addison St.
Berkeley, CA 94702

RE: Save IIBB and housing of its tenants at 2509 McGee St., Berkeley

Dear Mr. Behrstock,

I am enclosing a copy of the letter that I wrote to the Berkeley City Mayor and the City council March of last year and requested the City's help to protect the International Institute of Bengal Basin (IIBB), its tenants' housing, and the property owner who retired in 2000. Meanwhile the City Planning and zoning formally approved condominium designation for 2507 McGee St., which has been used by the IIBB. And the City Planning and Zoning formally accepted the IIBB as the main tenant. Therefore, IIBB spent more money to prepare the property to follow condominium requirements and prepared the property for final stages of its conversion and paid required fees (copies enclosed). Ms. Marie Bowman, a dedicated community leader, helped IIBB and the property owner. We are pleased with her contribution in assisting this condo-conversion for IIBB pro bono. However, our hopes are shattered by the City Attorney Office's sudden action of receivership to give this property to a developer.

Because of the above, I am writing on behalf of the owner and all tenants at 2507 McGee St. They are being treated rather arbitrarily, and deprived of due process and of their constitutional rights by the City authority. The Property is one of the cleanest in the neighborhood and is not a public nuisance, which is confirmed by Dr. Sterling Burnnell M.D. who is the acting president of IIBB (photos and a copy of his letter is enclosed). I believe the house was built according to approved plans and complies with conditions given by the City. A Zoning officer examined the final roof structure and signed a plan, copy of which is enclosed.

I am enclosing two photos of 1628 Blake St. in the same neighborhood of IIBB facility of McGee St. which is only within 125 yards away. The McGee tenants claim that neither the Zoning Board nor the City Attorney cite a four-story building a 1628 Blake St., which has no zoning permit. The IIBB facility had an approved building and zoning permit.

The IIBB is dedicated to helping people both here and abroad, has been supported by three Nobel Laureates -- namely Linus Pauling, Glenn T. Seaborg and myself. It helps provide improved environments, clean drinking water, human, and housing rights to millions of people. I urge you to help the IIBB and its facility by preventing the City of Berkeley from taking the property from its rightful owner and assist the institute to perform its good work.

Sincerely,

Chas. N. Townes

Nobel Laureate Charles Townes
Advisor of IIBB

CHT/lc