

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY. DAVIS. IRVINE .LOS ANGELES. MERCED .RIVERSIDE. SAN DIEGO. SAN FRANCISCO. SANTA BARBARA. SANTA CRUZ



CHARLES H. TOWNES
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
366 LE CONTE HALL #7300
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-7300

TEL: 510/642-1128
FAX: 510/643-8497

March 13, 2012

Secretary Shun Donovan
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20410
Telephone: (202) 708-1112 TTY: (202) 708-1455

Dear Secretary Donovan,

I recently wrote a letter to Secretary Eric Holder on behalf of Dr. Rash Ghosh's complaint regarding his housing problems resulting from the actions of the City of Berkeley. I received a response from Secretary Holder's office indicating that this matter is not criminal in nature so it falls beyond their jurisdiction.

Dr. Ghosh informed me that he made recent attempts to USHUD San Francisco and California Fair Housing to report every incidents/forced entry to his house by city personnel. Both offices refused to accept his complaints and would not give any reason why they could not accept his complaints.

Dr. Ghosh, owner of the property in question and his non-profit organization "The International Institute of Bengal Basin" (IIBB) are victims of gross injustice. Dr. Ghosh's residence at McGee and Dwight Way was closed 54 months ago. He has been paying mortgage, tax, insurance and maintenance of the property although the property is under the control of the receiver.

Dr. Ghosh recently communicated to me that the USHUD (D.C) and the Attorney General's Office advised that it would be appropriate if I send a request to the Secretary of HUD, attaching my letter to Secretary Eric Holder, regarding this matter.

It has been very frustrating that this problem has been going on for over four years and we do not see any signs of a quick resolution. Dr. Ghosh recently deposited a cashier's check of \$160,000 to the City appointed Receiver (copy enclosed along with all other fees US\$42,000), which he demanded to cover cost of repair, architect, engineer, permit fees, etc. Now, instead of fixing the property, the City and the receiver is using the funds to market the property cover their expenses.

Two relevant documents are attached for your review and consideration. I appeal to your sense of justice and urged you to investigate this matter and take action to prevent the sale of the property and instead, help Dr. Ghosh to return to his house and get his property back and allow the non profit to continue its good work supported by several Nobel laureates. Dr. Ghosh has spent his hard earned income and life savings on this property so that it could serve as his "safety net" during his old age. He is now 67 years old with many health problems. Dr. Ghosh has retired in 2000 to do the non profit work to address "Global water Crisis". Because of this action by the City, it has exacerbated his health conditions and is now in deep financial hardship.

Sincerely

Chas. H. Townes

Nobel Laureate
Charles H Townes
Advisor and Co-founder of IIBB