



KNOX COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

BUILDING COMMUNITY, PEOPLE, AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Derek Antoine, Exec. Director, Secretary
Jack P. Ball, Attorney

Wednesday, April 08, 2020

2:17 PM

Family Sites Residents
Knox County Housing Authority
RE: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and your lease

As part of a nationwide effort to stop and slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Illinois Governor JB Pritzker has issued a stay at home order, which is effective through April 30, 2020 (unless modified or further extended). Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued advisories against gatherings of 10 people or more as a necessary precaution to limit exposure to this highly infectious virus. These orders and advisories have been issued for the safety of everyone in this city, county, state, and country. COVID-19 has proven deadly, and new cases continue to rise daily.

Given the advanced nature of the spread of COVID-19, and in consideration of the need for our families to have a home in which to shelter in place, the Knox County Housing Authority has **suspended** all lease and terminations until the state of emergency has been lifted. This was done so that our tenant families would not lose their places of shelter during this emergency, and that our families and children would stay safe. However, it's become evident this compromise is being abused.

It has come to my attention that several tenants have ignored state orders and advisories and held large parties, potentially exposing individuals to the spread of COVID-19 unnecessarily. It's also my understanding that, when approached by representatives from KCHA or the Galesburg Police Department (GPD), residents have become verbally aggressive and have refused to comply with requests and orders to shut down the large gatherings. This is concerning to me as it demonstrates a clear disregard for public safety and, accordingly, is considered a serious lease violation. Any lease violations that occur during the declared state of emergency will be addressed once operations resume as normal, up to and including termination of assistance and eviction from dwelling units. Further, the GPD will continue to issue tickets and make any arrest deemed necessary to protect the public good. GPD has our full support in this endeavor.

Let me be clear – this behavior is dangerous and entirely unacceptable. **Any resident that disregards public safety during this time of state and national emergency will be considered to have committed a serious lease violation and, as such, subject to lease termination once the state of emergency expires.** We will continue to partner with the Galesburg Police Department to address these issues. If you have any information regarding any such breach of public safety, please do not hesitate to contact the GPD at 309.343.9151, or you may reach my office at the number listed above.

Respectfully,



Derek B. Antoine
Executive Director
Knox County Housing Authority