

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

FREE

APRIL 11 - MAY 8, 2025

UNITING & ENLIGHTENING THE COMMUNITY

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ABUSE OF POWER



tenants a notice specifying the purpose for requesting entry into a unit at least two days prior.

After giving notice, PHAs are expressly permitted to enter tenants' units to:

- * Perform routine inspections and maintenance (this includes inspections conducted by HUD staff, HUD contract inspectors and PHA staff);
- * Make improvements or repairs; and
- * Show the unit for re-leasing.

If no adult members of a tenant's household are at home when the PHA staff enters a unit, staff must leave a notification for the tenant about the date, time, and purpose of the entry prior to leaving the unit. The PHA may enter a unit at any time without notice if there is reasonable cause to believe an emergency exists, such as, if the unit smells of gas or there is water running out from under the door. It is important to note that this section of the lease does not authorize PHAs or police departments to enter units for security purposes unless for example, the police department has a search warrant or has other legal authority to enter absent

By Valerie D. Lockhart
SUN EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As Dasella Scott sat grief stricken at her father's funeral, the somber mood was interrupted by a buzz on her cellphone.

Scott initially ignored the buzzing. When it would not stop, she looked down at her phone and was shocked to see a text message followed by a voice mail from ADT that said, "The motion detector in your home has been triggered. A break-in has been reported. We have contacted the police."

Frantically, Scott left the funeral and returned home to find that an Inkster Police officer had escorted Inkster Housing Commission (IHC) staff into her home. A message taped to her door stating she was at a funeral, the alarm is activated, and to call before entering was ignored.

"I felt betrayed and violated. They ignored my note and invaded my private space. They robbed me of my father's funeral. That's an event I can never unwind and do again," Scott said. "They could have left a card saying, 'I'm sorry I missed you give us a to reschedule the meet and greet.'"

Scott went to the rental office for Parkside Estates that is managed by the Housing and Urban Development to determine why they entered her home and to file a complaint.

She was told by Gladys Neal, executive director of the IHC, "You knew we were coming for a housing inspection."

Scott, who gestures with her hands while speaking, denied receiving notice of a housing inspection.

According to HUD's Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook states, "The lease specifies the circumstances under which Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) may enter a dwelling unit during a tenant's occupancy. Except for emergencies, PHAs must also give

tenant's consent."

A flyer distributed to residents states, "Inkster Housing personnel will be going door to door, and we want to meet you and your family" during a "property walk on March 5 to March 7."

Upset because the flyer did not mention an inspection and the violation of her rights, Scott raised her voice and demanded to file a complaint. Neal asked Scott twice to come into her office to speak.

When Scott refused to talk privately in Neal's office, she refused to file the complaint and advised Scott to leave the building or wait for Inkster police to come.

The entire incident was recorded by Scott's friend and posted online on YouTube under "Excuse Me Honey! That's not what the flyer said/You & your staff don't know your own lease/policy."

Scott left the building and the police were called.

Officer Tevon Hall responded to the call and took a report from Neal.

He wrote, "She observed a male recording the interaction. Ms. Scott said, 'I got my brother taping because I might need bail money.' At this point, Ms. Neal felt threatened and believed Ms. Scott might attempt to harm her. Ms. Neal repeatedly instructed Ms. Scott to step back, stating, 'I need you to back up please,' multiple times. Ms. Scott failure to not back up. Ms. Neal was in fear that Ms. Scott was going to strike her. Ms. Neal then informed Ms. Scott that she was no longer welcome at 4500 Inkster and directed her to leave the premises. She then instructed her staff to contact the Inkster Police Department. Ms. Scott and her brother subsequently left the location."

Officer Hall interviewed two witnesses, Terrance Adams and Alicia Jacobs, who collaborated that Ms. Scott was angry. Jacobs claims to have heard Neal yell out to call 911.

--SEE ABUSE OF POWER page 18

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