

Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
City and County of San Francisco



London N. Breed
Mayor

Kate Hartley
Director

July 20, 2018

Dear Midtown Resident,

I am writing to provide an update of the City's ongoing work to provide safe, decent housing at Midtown Park Apartments.

As most all Midtown residents are aware, we spent a great deal of time between January and June of this year reviewing proposed renovation plans for the property that would address failing building systems and also provide the disabled access many Midtown residents need. We presented this information at 21 small group meetings over those six months, with the goal of providing a setting where residents could respond to detailed information and express opinions about what they did and didn't want for the building renovation.

On Monday, June 11, 2018, however, we received a petition signed by 64 residents opposing any demolition and even substantial rehabilitation at Midtown. At around the same time, we were sued by a small group of residents for not providing disabled access and for having ongoing repair and maintenance problems.

These two events put the City in a bind, because we can't provide the building repairs and access residents say they want without conducting some level of rebuilding and extensive rehabilitation that residents who signed the petition say they don't want.

In addition, the petition stated something that was very disappointing: "The current rehabilitation plan proposed by Mercy Housing and supported by the Mayor's Office of Housing will lead to the permanent displacement of the 139 working class families at Midtown Park Apartments." This statement is absolutely untrue, as everyone who has participated in any of our meetings knows.

As always, the City remains committed to ensuring that Midtown remains 100% permanently affordable housing and that there is no displacement of existing residents (any construction-phase relocation required will be temporary only). Again, the only two purposes of the renovation plans are 1) to save Midtown from falling apart and becoming uninhabitable; and 2) to provide access for people with disabilities.

Given the latest series of events, we have gone back to the drawing board and are re-looking at ways that we can fix the units up to a standard that ensures long-term, decent living but that only involves relocation on-site. Please note that no matter what the final rehabilitation plans are, all residents will need to temporarily vacate their units because the buildings' systems are so old and broken that they have to be replaced.

We expect to be done with this analysis by the end of August. In September, we will schedule an all-residents' meeting to discuss the timeline and answer questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Hartley', is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Kate Hartley