



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: November 1, 2024

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

FROM: Ashley Turney, Assistant City Manager
Monica Kirch, HAND Director

DEPT: Housing and Neighborhood Development

SUBJECT: Lakemill Lodge Closure and Resident Assistance

On Wednesday, October 30, 2024, Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) HAZMAT program, alongside the City of Reno Code Enforcement, Building Compliance, Fire Department (RFD), and Police Department (RPD), conducted an inspection of Lakemill Lodge as part of a regular investigation into code complaints and issues that had arisen from the Motel Inspection Program.

NNPH Environmental Health Inspectors found evidence of human waste and controlled substances in the stairwells and common areas. The Reno Police Department performed rapid testing on used hypodermic syringes found on the main stairwell steps. Positive results returned for fentanyl, methamphetamine and heroin. Due to the evidence of dangerous controlled substances and biohazardous human waste (urine and feces), NNPH shut down the facility stairwells and common areas until the issues can be remediated.

Because the stairwells provide the main egress points from the facility, occupants of Lakemill Lodge were evacuated, and the building was shut down until remediation occurs and officials have determined the building can reopen.

Housing and Neighborhood Development immediately deployed staff to Lakemill Lodge to aid the displaced tenants with housing assistance and placement. Rental and deposit assistance staff were reassigned to assist those who were referred to City Hall from Lakemill Lodge for assistance, and staff were able to confirm availability and negotiate a quick move in process for over 30 units. The following is a recap of the number of individuals and type of assistance provided.

Direct financial assistance: Provided financial assistance to six individuals in the form of direct payment to various short term housing landlords. Additionally, of those six, three have secured permanent housing, which the City will provide financial assistance in the form of deposit and first month's rent once their units are ready. This was in the form of payment to various short term housing landlords.

Indirect Assistance: Staff leveraged our established community relationships and partnerships to assist an additional 69 households. This included connecting them to services and also facilitating the relocation of several households to local motels at the expense of Lakemill Lodge.

Throughout the week and weekend HAND staff has maintained contact with the respective motels to confirm financial coverage for the displaced residents. Simultaneously staff has been coordinating with other agencies and funders for a longer-term solution if needed.

On Monday morning, HAND staff reached out to Motel 6 to confirm that the owner of Lakemill Lodge had arranged for an extension of stay for these residents. However, the Motel 6 manager informed us that they were no longer welcome at the establishment. The manager cited instances of property damage and noted concerns over occupancy limits, as there were reportedly 4-5 individuals per room, often accompanied by multiple animals of different species.

HAND staff will continue to work with relevant stakeholders to address both immediate and ongoing housing needs for the affected residents.

Community Partners: HAND staff, Clean and Safe staff, RISE outreach, Karma Box Project outreach, Downtown Regional Partnership, Washoe County HOPE Team, Washoe County Our Place case managers and certified peers, Washoe County Cares Campus case managers, VA outreach workers, ReStart case managers, Eddy House youth outreach, and the Mill Street Care Center outreach.