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January 6, 2022

OPEN LETTER TO CHA RESIDENTS, VOUCHER HOLDERS AND LANDLORDS

From: Steven A. Fischer, Executive Director

Dear All:

By now, you may have all heard of the devastating loss of life in a Philadelphia apartment building early yesterday. Twelve (12) people perished including eight (8) children. Our hearts go out to all that were affected by this tragedy. Mayor Kenney called yesterday one of the most tragic days in the city's history.

This horrible incident is a truly sad reminder of **the importance of smoke detectors**. It was reported that all four smoke detectors in the two units of housing were not operational. Had they worked, residents would have been awakened and had a chance to escape the fire.

As you know, we are sticklers about smoke detectors and this is why. The first thing checked when we enter a home are the smoke detectors. All official inspections include a report of the smoke detectors. But we cannot be in your home every day. **Please be sure to report immediately to us (to your landlord if you are a voucher holder), if you believe a smoke detector in your home is not working.** Also, please be reminded that it is a **lease violation to disconnect or tamper with any smoke detector or fire suppression system**. Again, yesterday's tragedy is the reason why.

Another issue. The two housing units in Philadelphia were over occupied. **Please be reminded that members of the household are listed on the lease and occupancy should be "limited to" those people only.**

From time to time, we have teamed up with the Chester Fire Department to hold training on fire prevention and safety. Due to COVID, this has not been done in a few years. We will get back to that when it is practical again. Until then, **call if you believe a smoke detector is not working. Call today.**

cc: William C. Rigby IV, Fire Commissioner
Steven Gretskey, Police Commissioner
Thaddeus Kirkland, Mayor
Sheila Church, CHA Board Chair