

MEEKER COUNTY RESIDENT COUNCIL

Mildred Hendrickson, President

A PRESS RELEASE

To be released April 5, 2011

On March 17, 2011, the Meeker County Resident Council purchased a Billboard Sign in Litchfield through Lamar Companies in St. Cloud. Initial rental is for the month of April 2011. The contracted location is on the eastbound side of Highway 12 in Litchfield, near the McDonalds.



The apparent conflict between the residents of the Meeker County HRA and the appointed HRA Commissioners has necessitated these desperate measures. Minnesota Statute 469 governs the formation of public housing for counties and instructs the Meeker County Commissioners to appoint a suitable panel of HRA Commissioners to govern the housing affairs of the county.

In 2005, the Minnesota Legislature did a study that found the office of County Commissioner to be incompatible with that of HRA Commissioner. That informative brief is located on the Minnesota House website (see links).

In October of 2008, the County appointed then County Commissioner Amy Wilde to a vacated seat on the HRA Board with a term expiring July 2012. In the spring of 2009, the HRA Board filed a resolution with the County requesting removal and investigation of Amy Wilde for various reasons. Prior to any actions by the County, Wilde resigned from the HRA Board citing health reasons and HRA Board conflicts. At Wilde's request, the County Board appointed Wally Strand to her vacated seat for the remainder of the term. Shortly thereafter, Wilde reappears at the HRA and simply takes her seat back. Strand never resigned. The County never reappointed Wilde back to Strand's vacated seat. The County did not simultaneously reappointed Strand to the vacated seat of Ron Johnson, whose term expires July 2013. These errors in appointments appear unlawful, as they did not follow statutory procedures. The HRA Board is not a committee. County Officers cannot play musical chairs like a committee because they are appointed as if elected for a term. An appointed office is no different from any other elected office. Procedures and appointments are governed by statute.

The Meeker County HRA residents have been suffering under the heavy-handed tactics of County Commissioners who exploit their County Commissioner authority to the detriment of the residents, their safety, their well-being, and their best interest. The Council wants an independent board, as is authorized by statute, dedicated to the mission of decent, safe, and affordable housing. The residents are suffering under the obvious conflict of interest and want it to end.

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Contact Information:

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IMPORTANT LINKS:

Compatibility of Offices information brief from the MN Legislature website:

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/comptoff.pdf>

County Commissioner Tim Benoit's presents a petition from the resident council that calls for Wilde and Strand's resignation by March 15, 2011. <http://www.mnpatriots.com/wp-content/uploads/ResignPetition/BenoitStatement.pdf>

The Resignation Petition presented 2/28/2011. <http://mnpatriots.com/?p=583>

HRA Meeting on 12/20/2010 exposes corruption: <http://mnpatriots.com/?p=530>

FOX 9 Investigation on code violations and a disregard for the safety and well-being of residents:
<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/news/investigators-theres-no-place-like-home-dec-14-2010>

A discussion of the Executive Summary into the October 2009 incident at the Dassel Apartments:
<http://mnpatriots.com/?p=501>

The July 27, 2010 letter from HUD to outline the malformation of the HRA Board:
<http://www.mnpatriots.com/wp-content/uploads/HUDLet20100727.pdf>

FOX 9 Investigation into the elder abuse investigation at the Dassel Apartments:
<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/news/investigators-investigated-or-ignored-nov-3-2010>

Letter from MN Attorney General Lori Swanson's office dated October 16, 2010:
<http://mnpatriots.com/wp-content/uploads/AttorneyGeneralSwanson.pdf>

Meeker County Resident Council President, Mildred Hendrickson's letter 10/18/2010 to Litchfield IR:
<http://www.mnpatriots.com/wp-content/uploads/ConfrontCommissioners/MildredLetterToLitchIR.PDF>

Mildred Hendrickson's 10-23-2010 letter to the people of Meeker County:
<http://www.mnpatriots.com/wp-content/uploads/ConfrontCommissioners/MildredLetterToMeeker.PDF>

Read the accounts of the October 2009 event in the comments at the bottom of FOX 9 Investigation:
<http://www.mnpatriots.com/wp-content/uploads/ConfrontCommissioners/MildredLetterToMeeker.PDF>