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NEWS RELEASE

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Small Administration Calls on HUD to Fix ‘Deplorable and Horrific’ Conditions

Atlantic City, N.J. (October 27, 2022) – Mayor Marty Small, Sr., is calling on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fix what he describes as “deplorable and horrific” conditions at Atlantic City Housing Authority buildings.

During a news conference on Thursday, October 27, 2022, Mayor Small explained these conditions are due to a zero-tolerance policy with HUD, a Federal agency.

“This needs to be addressed,” said Mayor Small. “We’re calling on HUD to put the people of Atlantic City first over a policy decision. It’s extremely important our residents don’t live like that. I want to explain to the residents of Atlantic City, when things hit the fan in Atlantic City they come to the Mayor’s office. The Mayor’s office, Health office and Public Works office have been bombarded with phone calls and visits about the conditions at the Atlantic City Housing Authority. However, this City government has no jurisdiction over the Housing Authority, it’s run by HUD. This is not on the City of Atlantic City. We want HUD to understand there are people suffering. So, we’re calling on (HUD) to lift your restrictions.”

The Atlantic City Health and Human Services Department inspected numerous complaints from residents about these properties. The Health Department determined these were viable issues that needed to be addressed.

“We did see trash chutes filled to capacity,” said Chief Inspector of Atlantic City’s Environmental Health Division Harold Reeves. “We have other issues, bed bug infections, roaches, but the primary thing was the amount of trash not being picked up. The trash was just unbearable. So, the emergency was written.”

An emergency declaration was issued by the City of Atlantic City to begin the cleanup process. The Department of Public Works deployed 47 laborers and 30 vehicles to clear out trash at seven Housing Authority properties. The Solicitor’s Office says the emergency will continue until the problem is cured.

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