

February 19, 2015

Governor Nikki R. Haley
800 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Nikki Haley

I'm writing to tell you concerning my daughter Erika Holmstrom's housing situation. Without making this letter too long, I'm going to try to give some insight of what Erika has to deal with in her life so far. We are originally from Long Island, New York and Erika has been living in South Carolina for the past 9-10yrs. sharing an apartment with a friend she came down here with. Because Erika doesn't have a vehicle, she has been riding her bike back and forth to work in the rain, heat, and sometimes in the middle of the night, when she is given the night shift. She does this for a twenty hour a week job. The reason Erika only works so little is because she is mentally challenged and has been all her life. When she was younger (she is now 40) I would drive her wherever she needed to go. Now that my husband and I are retired and living down here, I help Erika as much as I can. Before I came down to South Carolina 2 yrs ago Erika met someone and the two of them have been sharing an apartment together. I come to find out that he also has mental challenges too. So, now they are living in this apartment in Garden City for the last 2 ½ yrs. paying rent on time and any other bills they may have. February 2nd or 3rd Erika tells me that they got a notice, from some contractors telling them not to use their front door so they can repair the steps going up to the apartment above them. Next thing I here from Erika is that they are evicted from their apartment. Erika tells me that that they said the building was condemned. Horry County code enforcement officials had deemed the building in Cambridge Apartments complex to be unfit for occupancy, meanwhile Erika and her roommate have been paying rent to the land lord Tim Treon for the last 2 ½ yrs. The construction people told them they had 24 hours to get their stuff out. My first thought was we're they going to go? Then I thought, they wouldn't have been able to find someone to help move their stuff in such short notice. By the time she let me know about what was happening it was too late they had boarded up the apartment. Erika stayed for a week at an apartment in the next building that wasn't affected. But now she has all her important papers in the condemned apartment. All her possessions to include clothing, kitchen wares, furniture, bedding, and nobody will help her get them out. At the time of the eviction, Erika stated that her medication was in the apartment. The officials there told her she would get arrested if they enter the building. The official then said, "Go to the pharmacy and get some more." I'm trying to help her, so I made some phone calls to The State of South Carolina Dept of Social Services in Horry County, The Housing Authority, The Sheriff Dept, and I told Erika to call the Surfside Beach Magistrate Office, but that didn't help. Nobody seemed to show us any interest in helping at all. All of Erika's life I was there for her and I would try my best to help her with situations that came up, but this is hard for me because I don't know who to contact. To get their security and February's rent refunded, they were told to write a letter to the landlord, which they did. But the landlord, Tim Treon, refuses to answer his phone therefore, they can't get his address. I would really appreciate your help. Thank-you

Sincerely, Leontine Holmstrom

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