

Union Flats Resident Meeting

Jan 31, 2022 | 5:30-7pm

In attendance: Equity Committee (John Mauer, Melissa Pappas, Ben Bauer, Alyssa Kruzel, Javier Miranda, Jessica Willman), HOME Line (Kara Lallman, Ben Bilsten), Union Flats Residents (14 residents)

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION - JESSICA

- Invite participants to introduce themselves via chat (Name, How long they've lived at Union Flats, why you wanted to attend tonight)
- Brief introduction of SAPCC Equity Committee

Jessica explained the historical context of this meeting - complaints and concerns about management had been given to us. The SAPCC wrote an advocacy letter to Dominion, but wanted to host a next steps Renters Rights meeting for residents.

- Brief "Why were here"
 - Update on the Letter/[Response](#)
 - Update on contact with Mitra
 - Next Steps

We spoke with Mitra, who said that on the city end they would make sure regular inspections would be held at Union Flats. Today we're looking at not only renter's rights, but what the next steps for residents could be.

HOMELINE -

HOME Line provides free and low-cost legal, organizing, education, and advocacy services so that tenants throughout Minnesota can solve their own rental housing problems.

BEN - HOME Line Renter's Rights Overview

Ben presented a renters right overview that included how to report issues, eviction process and rights, security deposit rights, and information on how to take legal action against a landlord.

KARA - Building a Renters Association (Next Steps)

Kara presented on the next steps for the residents, which could include building an association of residents. She encouraged them to utilize the group they already have to start talking about how to organize to get problems solved at Union Flats. She shared how to do this and also the benefits of organizing in a community (not only for renters rights, but for building a community in the apartment).

Q&A - Via chat or raised hands.

Many questions we addressed during the presentations and after they were complete. HOME Line talked about retaliation and rent increases, talked about how to organize for safety and what is and isn't worth it to fight for (ex. Fight for getting the locks fixed on the garage, not for holding the management accountable for break ins). They talked about ways that individuals can protect themselves (car and peephole cameras) and how to document interactions with management.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Is Union Flats interested in a Renter's Association? Email karal@homelinemn.org

The renters seemed interested in building an association. Kara offered to put together a webinar to help them get things started and we will follow up with participants with next steps. The SAPCC is going to use the www.sapcc.org/rentersrights page to follow up with questions, share powerpoints, forms and next steps for the group.

- Interested in Renter's Advocacy in SAP? Email jessica@sapcc.org (Renter's Advocacy Council)

Unfortunately we ran out of time to address interest in the Renter's Advocacy Council.

- Want to connect about individual concerns in your apartment? Contact HOME Line at <https://homelinemn.org/>

EQUITY COMMITTEE MEETING - Discuss goals, Renter's Advocacy Council, & Other Equity Concerns in our Community - February 28th | 5:30-7pm via Zoom