

STEVE COHEN  
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

2404 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265  
FAX: (202) 225-5663

CLIFFORD DAVIS/ODELL HORTON  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
167 NORTH MAIN STREET  
SUITE 369  
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131  
FAX: (901) 544-4329

[www.cohen.house.gov](http://www.cohen.house.gov)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4209**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE - RANKING MEMBER  
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET

COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
AVIATION  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE  
(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Julian Castro  
Secretary  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

I read with great concern this weekend recent reports<sup>1</sup> that described alarming conditions in federally subsidized-housing in Memphis. According to an article a unit in the Warren Apartments in Memphis had holes in the walls made by rats, exposed electrical wiring, broken windows, no working lights, a moldy bathroom, a leaky roof and doors missing knobs. The article also reported similar conditions at the Goodwill Village apartments in Memphis.

As a champion for safe, affordable housing, I am sure you will agree this is unacceptable. I spoke with John Gemmill, the Director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") Field Office in Memphis, and he also shares my concerns with the conditions at the properties.

Given these concerns, I would respectfully request answers to the following questions:

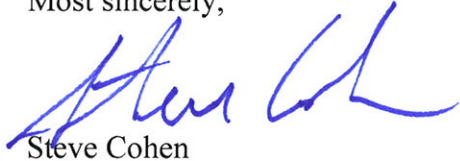
1. What is the Department doing to ensure that the apartments in Memphis are brought up to code?
2. Does the Department have sufficient resources to alleviate the concerns and assist the residents at Warren and Goodwill Village apartments?
3. Do you believe HUD, the Department of Treasury, or the Department of Justice would be the proper agency to investigate published allegations that family employees of Global Ministry Foundation Chief Executive Officer were not disclosed as employees on Internal Revenue forms as required?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and for your continued commitment to strong, sustainable neighborhoods.

<sup>1</sup> 4/12/15 Memphis Commercial Appeal, "Apartments suffer as nonprofit owner shifts funds to mission work"  
4/9/15 WHBQ-TV, "City And Religious Group Have Stake In Infested Apartments"

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Cohen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress