

DETROIT NATIVE SUN



Take the life-saving step of testing for radon



ABUSE OF POWER continued from Page 1 Hall said he reviewed the housing office's video footage that captured the incident.

"The video shows Ms. Dasalla Scott entering Inkster Housing Commission in an aggressive manner, appearing visibly upset and yelling," Hall wrote. "Ms. Scott is observed placing her hands in the faces of two employees while continuing to yell aggressively. Additionally, a male accompanying Ms. Scott also appeared to be recording the incident. The video footage has been preserved and is available for review."

However, the housing video footage reportedly had no sound. The video recorded by Scott's friend does not show Scott putting her fingers in anyone's face nor does Neal ask Scott to back up. In fact, Neal takes a step toward Scott who moves away.

After Scott left the building, she immediately went to the police department to file a police report accusing the IHC of breaking into and entering her home. Officer Hall denied her request.

She would later learn that Hall was the officer who escorted staff into her home. She was able to make a written statement that was documented by Detective Gardner, who called Hall and left a message about the complaint.

Five days later, Scott received a citation in the mail accusing her of "acting in a threatening matter/assaultive matter, trespassed from 4500 Inkster Road." She must appear in the 22nd District Court to face a misdemeanor charge of "Disorderly Person Disturbing the Peace/Acting in a Threatening & Aggressive Manner."

"We take all inquiries seriously, especially those involving allegations of mis-

conduct or potential violations of civil rights. After reviewing the details of the incident, we can confirm that the officers involved acted appropriately and in accordance with department policy and state law," Inkster Police Chief Tamika Jenkins said. "As it pertains to the entry into Ms. Scott's residence, the officers were present in a standby capacity to prevent a possible disturbance and ensure the safety of all parties, as they did with all residents. It is important to note that law enforcement did not initiate the entry nor compel it."

However, a neighbor says she witnessed Officer Hall open the door to Ms. Hall's home and escort housing staff into the property.

Six days later, she received a certified letter from the IHC ordering her to leave the property within a week.

The Inkster Housing Commission did not respond to the Detroit Native Sun's email questioning the eviction notice and filing of a police report.

"I feel like Ms. Neal weaponized the law to use against me," Scott said. "I've never had a criminal record, and I've always paid my rent on time. Because I requested to file a complaint against the IHC for violating my rights, I was retaliated against with a criminal charge and eviction. No one will want to rent to me with a criminal record. I would like to see HUD or city officials appoint a lawyer to the housing units to represent tenants. We are low income residents. That's why we're getting subsidized housing. We need someone to speak out for us. Just because we're poor doesn't mean we don't have rights. This is an abuse of power and it's time to disconnect the cord."

(StatePoint) Radon—an odorless, tasteless and colorless gas found in homes and buildings at high levels throughout the United States—is the second leading cause of lung cancer, responsible for about 21,000 deaths each year, and the leading cause of lung cancer among people who don't smoke.

The American Lung Association is partnering with Protect Environmental to educate and empower communities nationwide to take action to prevent lung cancer. As part of the campaign, they are answering some frequently asked questions about radon:

What is radon? Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas emitted from the ground. Uranium in soil and rocks breaks down to form radium. As radium decays, radioactive particles (radon gas) are released into the air.

Why is radon found in buildings? Radon gas enters buildings through cracks in walls, basements, floors, foundations, and potentially, through water used in showers and faucets, trapping it inside.

Why is radon harmful? Radon gas particles can be inhaled in your lungs, attacking cells with dangerous, cancer-causing radiation. Radon exposure has no immediate symptoms; however, the long-term threat of health problems, including lung cancer, is serious.

How is radon detected? The only way to know the radon level in your home and workplace is to conduct a radon test. Dangerous radon levels have been found in every state, so every building should be regularly tested. Testing is the first step in reducing risk of radon-induced lung cancer and is recommended every two to five

years, even if you have a mitigation system. The Lung Association and Protect Environmental are offering free radon test kits to homeowners in select communities across the United States. Visit Lung.org/protect-environmental to learn more and check your eligibility for receiving a test kit.

What should I do if I detect high radon levels? Radon gas is measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends taking action to reduce radon if levels are 4.0 pCi/L or greater, and to consider similar actions when the radon level is between 2.0 and 4.0 pCi/L. If you discover high radon levels in your home, a radon mitigation system should be installed to reduce the amount of radon to a safer level. Just be sure you work with a professional who is certified in radon mitigation. Using unqualified professionals may lead to faulty installation, which can cause property damage and even increase indoor radon levels.

The American Lung Association's campaign to raise awareness on the importance of radon testing is supported by Protect Environmental. For more information, visit Lung.org/protect-environmental.

"I've been to too many homes where no one knew to test for radon until someone in the home got the devastating diagnosis of lung cancer," says Kyle Hoylman, chief executive officer of Protect Environmental. "Taking action to reduce radon through mitigation and regular testing is an investment in the lung health of everyone in the building and could be a lifesaving improvement."

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