

Good morning Chair and Members of the Public Safety and Health Committee,

My name is Desilynn G. Smith, Executive Director of Uniting Garden Homes Inc.

I am writing to provide additional information to supplement my prior correspondence opposing the appointment of Karin Tyler as Director of the Department of Community Wellness and Safety. I respectfully request that this email also be entered into the official record for the committee's consideration.

In addition to the concerns previously shared regarding governance, accountability, and community engagement, I believe it is important to bring forward recent developments that raise further concern about ongoing patterns of conduct.

I recently applied to participate as a Team Lead within the Promise Keepers initiative. On the evening prior to the final day of interviews, I received a phone call at approximately 8:30 PM requesting that I attend an interview the following morning. Due to prior commitments, I was unable to attend in person and asked whether a virtual interview option could be accommodated. I was informed that it was the final day of interviews and that I would be notified if a virtual option became available.

Subsequently, I was contacted by another individual who had experienced a similar scheduling conflict. That individual later received a follow-up call and was provided an opportunity to complete an interview after the stated closing of the interview process. According to information shared directly with me, that individual was ultimately offered a team position contingent upon agreeing to remove me from participation.

This information was communicated to me on April 7, 2026.

I also want to note that communications regarding this process have been coming from an external organization based in Chicago, Illinois, which appears to be managing aspects of the Promise Keepers initiative on behalf of the City. This raises additional questions regarding process transparency, consistency in selection practices, and oversight of externally administered programs tied to City initiatives.

While I understand that staffing and program decisions can be complex, the circumstances described above raise serious concerns about fairness, equitable access to opportunities, and the potential for continued retaliatory dynamics, particularly in light of the concerns I previously raised through formal channels.

Additionally, I have been made aware that there are other individuals who share similar concerns but are hesitant to come forward due to fear of potential retaliation. While I respect their positions, I believe it is important for the committee to be aware that these concerns may extend beyond my individual experience.

Given that these issues appear to be ongoing, I believe it would be a disservice to the Council's oversight role if this information were not brought forward as part of your deliberation process.

As members of this committee, your responsibility to ensure transparency, accountability, and fairness in the administration of publicly funded programs is critical. Leadership decisions at this level directly

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