



RICHMOND REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Friday, May 22, 2009

Follow-up information regarding incident of Thursday, May 21, 2009 in Gilpin Court

On Thursday, May 21, 2009 officials responded to an emergency call at 1107 N. First Street in Gilpin Court. This two-story, two unit building experienced a bearing wall failure with the exterior and interior front wall of the unit and partial interior ceiling collapse in one of the units (1107-B). As stated earlier, the building, roof, and walls did not collapse.

The families in these units have been provided with temporary housing by The Red Cross. Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority is assisting the families, has identified comparable housing units, and is providing all relocation services.

Additionally, RRHA has placed a safety fence around the building and is providing security services at the site while continuing to work with all departments and authorities to respond and provide information as needed.

The engineer returned to the site this morning to continue the inspection and assessment of the 1107 N. First Street – units A and B, and unit D at 1109 N. First Street which is also in the secured area. At this time, the review and investigation of the cause of the failure is ongoing.

To continue the investigation efforts, RRHA will install temporary shoring to the exterior of the entire building and in the interior of one unit – Unit B- on both floors, to facilitate the additional inspection work of the engineer. This temporary shoring will make the building safe for the ongoing inspection work, and will allow RRHA staff to enter the building to remove the families' furnishings and personal items. The temporary shoring will provide protection and safety for the public and facilitate the ongoing investigation in a safe environment.

RRHA is projecting the installation of the temporary shoring will get underway on Saturday, May 23. WE anticipate the installation of the temporary shoring will be completed in approximately 48 hours. The engineer will resume inspection work subsequent to the installation of the temporary shoring. RRHA staff will then have the families' items removed from the unit and taken to their new units or placed in storage, if needed. RRHA staff and contractors will be on site throughout the weekend.

The RRHA maintenance call center is available for calls and requests for service. This holiday weekend the call center can be reached at 780-4100. We will continue to work to make this area safe and keep the community safe!

Thank you.

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority – 901 Chamberlayne Parkway – Richmond, VA 23220
804-780-4167
804-640-7549 – Valena Dixon – Cell phone number