



**COMMISSIONER LORETTA
SMITH**
Multnomah County, District 2

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Mr. Steve March
Multnomah County Auditor
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97214

February 26, 2018

Dear Auditor March:

I write to request an audit of the County's appropriation for the family shelter owned and operated by Human Solutions located at 16015 SE Stark Street.

It has come to my attention by recent media reporting that the aforementioned shelter poses a health and safety risk to the public and —more importantly— the vulnerable residents it aims to protect.

In 2015, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners earmarked \$372,002 of County funds and \$25,695 of grant dollars from Metro to Human Solutions for deferred maintenance of this property. Unfortunately, three years later, a leaky roof, dead rodents in the kitchen, tarps being used to cover holes in the roof, gas leaks and other serious issues have rendered this facility unsafe for continued use as a family shelter.

It is also my understanding that many of the concerns above were among a list of deferred maintenance items that were required to be addressed before the shelter could be opened. This is important to me, former residents of the shelter, and the general public; we are eager to know why such items weren't immediately addressed prior to the opening of the facility.

The County is a safety net government responsible for providing direct services to the most vulnerable residents in our community. It is essential that we spend our scarce resources on maintaining the safety and welfare of everyone at all of our shelters.

To this end, I request your comprehensive audit of the following:

- A detailed line item accounting of how the \$372,002 appropriation from Multnomah County, and the \$25,695 appropriation from Metro, were used.
- An accounting of existing deferred maintenance items identified in 2015.

Please advise me and the Board of County Commissioners of your findings. If you need any additional information, please reply to me in writing.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loretta Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Loretta" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Smith".

Commissioner Loretta Smith
District 2, Multnomah County Commission\

Cc:
Chair Deborah Kafoury
Commissioner Sharon Meieran
Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson
Commissioner Lori Stegmann
County Clerk

Commissioner Loretta Smith
Multnomah County, District 2