

To the City of Barrie and Simcoe County,

I've realized that one of the things I'm good at is influencing others. Apparently, when I talk, people listen to what I have to say. Barrie Housing's defamation lawsuit against me is happening because they think I've damaged their public image. Although I wouldn't go that far, I do think I influence it. And although I don't have legal representation, I've spoken to a couple lawyers over this past weekend and I haven't quite decided yet, but I might be willing to go to jail instead of remove all of my posts if a judge orders me to remove them, but I haven't decided yet. I don't have anything left to lose and I don't see much of a difference between sitting in this prison or a real one. And this is basically what happened to Martin Luther King Jr., and I can take pride in seeing myself the way I see him.

I'd like to make a suggestion for a plan forward.

If I'm actually damaging Barrie Housing's public image and reputation, making their employee's fearful for their safety, and causing other tenants to vandalize their properties - which I personally don't think I have that much power to do, yet these are the accusations being made against me - then, theoretically, I can make it stop too. I have absolutely not asked, or enticed anyone to do these things I'm being accused of (it's happening all on its own), but I can say things to change Barrie Housing's horrible public image and reputation, that I wholeheartedly believe they've brought upon themselves.

I can remove posts, retract statements, and make apologies, but I cannot lie, and I will not say positive things about Barrie Housing unless they start taking positive actions. That, I can do.

I think I should be hired to do this. I don't know what my suggested role would be, or if I should even be employed by Barrie Housing.

There are some non-negotiables, though:

1. Mary-Anne Denny-Lusk and Adele Baxter need to resign.

2. All Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) tenants must be given a financial breakdown of their rental charges, and any overcharged funds must be returned to them and/or to their social assistance provider, i.e., ODSP, CPP Disability, OAS, GIS, etc. If this causes bankruptcy, I already have an exit strategy (and I think it's brilliant).
3. There needs to be a way for tenants to make complaints, and for them to have their complaints dealt with, appropriately (certainly not ignored).

There's a lot of other things that are needed, but these are the bare minimum first steps that need to be taken for any kind of reconciliation to occur between the City of Barrie, Simcoe County and its vulnerable residents.

In my opinion, I'm the best tool available to fix Barrie Housing's self-inflicted harm. Furthermore, although I have not spoken to the Community Legal Clinic of Simcoe, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes personally about this, another tenant at 49 Coulter Street informed me that this clinic wants to "go after Barrie Housing for Quality of Life". I don't know anything else about this. But it doesn't sound good.

Sincerely,

Leah Dyck