



DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

February 17, 2022

Board of Directors
Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation
260 Old Elm Ave.
Delaware City, DE 19706
Delivered via email

RE: Executive director lease termination

Dear Chairman Short and members of the Board:

Pursuant to the pending resignation of the FDRC executive director, we write today to strongly urge the Board to terminate the lease agreement with the outgoing director in a residence owned by the FDRC. It is our understanding that this lease agreement runs month to month and includes a 30-day termination clause. It is imperative that the Board act promptly.

As this lease agreement was essentially part of the compensation package for the executive director, it must therefore end simultaneous to the outgoing director's March 31 resignation date. Put plainly, the outgoing director should not stay in that house even one day beyond the end of his tenure.

This is a matter of transparency, accountability, and responsibility to the taxpayers who support and sustain the FDRC and the executive director position.

In addition to terminating the lease agreement, the Board should be prepared to closely monitor the manner in which the residence is vacated. Specifically, the Board must require the outgoing director to produce receipts for any and all fixtures, furnishings or other items that may be removed from the residence. This will ensure that nothing paid for with taxpayer dollars leaves the premises.

From this point forward, the Board must end the practice of allowing FDRC employees to lease property from the organization. The conflict of interest, actual or perceived, is simply

too glaring to reconcile. Additionally, the Board should move to sell the property in question without delay in order to recoup the substantial funds invested in renovating the residence.

What we have told the Board before continues to be true: Any appearance, rumor or speculation regarding the mismanagement of the FDRC diminishes the public's confidence in the work of the organization and tarnishes the reputation of the entire effort. It is your duty to treat these matters with the utmost concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Valerie Longhurst". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Valerie" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Longhurst".

Representative Valerie Longhurst
Majority Leader

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicole Poore". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicole" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Poore".

Senator Nicole Poore

cc: Gov. John Carney
Albert Shields
Sheila Grant