

January 24, 2010

Dear Mr. Ponte and other VINFIN Administrators,

This is the first email since November 25, 2009, and though I would like to believe that I had no reason to write in the last two months but we know that is not true. As my phone calls to you and many, many more to 25 Virginia Street have demonstrated. The civility, trash, smells, and noise issues have not been taken care of. I find this to be a sad reflection on Vinfen and its "commitment to the community" that it so professes.

I cannot control how you and the tenants of 25 Virginia Street react to this letter, but I know that I will not continue to take time out of my day to write to you, or waste my time calling the house directly for something that is a basic right of all: QUIET ENJOYMENT.

I am happy that Vinfen's goal is transforming lives, especially of those who are often overlooked. Integrating people with disabilities into society is quite important, but as with all education it starts at home. If Vinfen is as multi-dimensional as its ads and website profess, then teaching respect of one's neighbors and neighborhood should already be part of the Vinfen curriculum. Sadly, this is not our experience.

The people who are watching over the grounds are completely inept in their duties. This was most recently experienced on Sunday January 24, 2010 at 5:30am. I was awoken from my sleep with the sounds of a party on the porch of 25 Virginia Street. I called the house, as I was told to do by you Mr. Ponte, and asked very politely for quiet. The gentleman that answered was one of the tenants (a first) and told me directly that, "the house is chaos" and "that there was no one in charge and it was very depressing." He said that he woke up to an ice cream party at 3am, which seemed to spill out to the porch. He did say he would try to quiet them. I thanked him and tried to sleep, which I did for a few hours with many continued interruptions coming from 25 Virginia. Throughout the day my wife and I had to deal with the near constant distraction from 25 Virginia. She called again at 5:35pm, only to be told by the attendant that arrived at 3pm, that they are tenants and "she cannot tell them anything" and, "they are allowed to do as they wish".

I find these statements and those of other attendants to be abhorrent and detrimental to the community. The attendants have proven themselves by their inability to oversee and contain the chaos that they are delinquent and counter to the promises of Vinfen, as well as democracy itself!

Since the November 25th letter, I have over 11 pages of Complaint Notes. These notes are similar to the last email in format, which shows the constancy. There are days when it is quiet and I am very grateful for that, but it seems that each Friday through Sunday the noise level jumps inordinately up. This does not mean that weekdays are quiet; rather, our notes show screaming, arguments, parties, loud sick people, and people yelling at themselves on a regular basis. I think it is safe to say

that Vinfen was not started as an asylum, so it needs to start behaving as a part of the community.

I have been told repeatedly by attendants that I am the only person who calls with complaints, but I have spoken with others in the neighborhood and they abhor the behavior, noise, and even begging that comes from the tenants. Yes, many have stated that they are constantly harangued for cigarettes. I also continue to find my yard full of cigarette butts, used lottery tickets and general trash, the opposite neighbor's yard contains barely a trace of trash compared to mine. Regularly upon exiting or entering my car I am engulfed in cigarette smoke from Vinfen tenants smoking on the porch or loitering and smoking on the sidewalk. In the spring I will be opening my windows, and I do not intend to have second-hand smoke in my house. I look forward to you being proactive so that battle need not be fought.

Following my most recent call to you, my wife responded to a knock on the door from a man who presented himself as a psychologist educated at Harvard and Oxford, very well connected, and representing 25 Virginia Street. My wife let him in the entrance. Upon my arrival, I politely asked him his issue and to leave, for he was a tenant of VinFen and not a representative. Though he might have meant well, his statements of "we moved to the wrong neighborhood" and "to expect no help from the police" are cause for alarm. This intimidation will not be acceptable. I did not follow up with it since I had just called you and spent enough time babysitting Vinfen.

I agree that people with disabilities and/or without disabilities deserve respect, but I have no respect for people who disregard their neighbors and refuse to cooperate in a community. I find it most amusing that when I do call the attendants they usually refuse to give me their names. They must be aware that they are not doing their jobs. A few have agreed with me about the loudest tenant, Barbara, who is the cause of 99% of our complaints.

I can respond to the noises, trash, smells, and general disrespect in many ways. I hope that I do not need to go beyond this letter.

I have faith that this will be taken care of immediately.

Sincerely,

Aaron and Catherine Larget-Caplan
21 Virginia Street
Dorchester, MA 02125

January 25, 2010

Mr. Larget-Caplan,

I am sorry to hear that the issues surrounding our residence continue to impede the ability of you and your wife to enjoy peace and quiet in your home. I will make every effort possible to rectify these problems in the hopes that we can all live in peaceful co-existence moving forward. Thank you for taking the time to point out these issues and please continue to do so whenever the need arises.

Respectfully,

Steven Ponte

Operations Director

Vinfen Corporation

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