

# *Lantern Community Services*

June 04, 2010

Dear City Council,

The impact of losing personnel due to the proposed budgetary cuts will be devastating to the supportive housing community. The tenants in supportive housing comprise of people living with HIV/AIDS and co presenting with clinical diagnoses of mental illnesses, substance abuse, developmental disabilities and medical conditions. This vulnerable population has also been associated with long term neglect as well as unresolved forensic and familial issues.

Our Tenants have come to rely on Lantern's case manager as a source of support. This corroboration between worker and consumer translates into greater mental stability, substance abuse awareness, harm reduction, sobriety and safer sex practices which lower the incidences of further HIV transmission in our communities.

The proposed cut would, according to HASA reduce the number of onsite nonprofit case managers by nearly 1/3 and increase caseloads by 50%. Our experiences suggest that the special needs population would benefit from greater support and not less. We urge you to rethink this proposal and to fully assess the long-term effects of the suggested budgetary cuts.

Sincerely,



Jessica Katz

Executive Director

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