

11 March 2024

by L Costello

The following was written by me within 20 minutes of my visit to Housing Resources Bainbridge offices. Thus it is not word-for-word, but rather words-to-the-effect-of and to the best of my memory. LC

MY VISIT TO HRB OFFICES ~~~ HOPING TO FIND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS?

2:00 pm

LC ~ Can you tell me what's going on in the apt next to me? People are upset and I'm getting worried.

JC - I really have to be careful and comply with confidentiality rules/requirements.

LC - Understood. Completely. But can you tell me anything about it? I share a wall and an entry area with them. I think of us as friends, I've 'adopted' the 99 year old mum, Jean', she's a sweetpea.

JC - Yes, she is sweet. And I'll try to help as much as I can without breaking any of their confidentiality.

LC - Thankyou. So, is there anything I can know about or maybe help with? She and her son seem especially upset today. Can you tell me why they haven't had a stove in their kitchen for over a year? For cooking? I mean... that seems...

JC - HRC has tried to replace their stove many many times.

LC - Oh, Can you say what the problem is?

JC - They have to comply with ADA. They need a 36" wide wheelchair access to get to the kitchen.

LC - I've actually measured their access myself and it is in compliance.

JC - No, they don't. I have photographic evidence.

LC - How do you have photographic evidence? Do you scale it off something....?

JC - You hold up a ruler and take photos.

LC - Oh, yeah. Of course. But I've measured it too and it is 36" wide.

JC - Well, there's a difference between wheelchair access and access for a dolly/handtruck that you (meaning me) don't know.

LC - I actually do know. I know about accessibility. And adaptability. I've been an architect for almost 40 years. And I was the second architect in the State of WA to have a special certification in ADA Title 111 historic preservation.

JC - I wish we could discuss more but... confidentiality...

LC - It seems it wouldn't be that hard to move a 30"x 26" stove up a 36" wide aisle. The son moved the old broken one out by himself. He's 74, no spring chicken.

JC - The aisle does not comply with ADA laws. And in order to use a handtruck with

something on it, the person has to be able to lean back to turn a corner and they need headroom.

LC - So to make it work, can HRB help them move whatever needs to be moved so they can have a stove? Seems someone could help a 99 year old mum and her 74 year old son?

JC - They have many many resources to go to for help.

LC - But not through HRC. That's good to know. By the way, can you reveal whether or not they are on a waiting list for a two-bedroom apartment?

JC - They don't qualify.

LC - Really. Look into the Revised Code of WA? Check out RCW 59.18.060#8, etc, etc.

JC - They don't qualify.

LC - It's hard to imagine anyone qualifying more than they do.

JC - Well, they don't qualify.

LC - OK. So. No stove. After waiting for over a year. That's all I need to know.

Written in good faith, LCostello

UW Medicine
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An affiliation of UW Neighborhood Clinics.

September 16, 2020

Jeane L. Hoffman
321 High School Road NE
Ste D3 PMB 292
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND WA 98110

Attn: Resource Bainbridge

RE: Jeane Leonie Hoffman
DOB: 1/6/1925

To whom it may concern:

I am the primary care physician for the above individual who is 95 years of age and suffers from poor hearing, arthritis, and recurrent ulcerations of her lower legs. Her son Louis is her main care provider. Currently they live in a single bedroom apartment.

I recommend they be provided a two bedroom apartment. This would provide Jeanne her own room to facilitate better rest and privacy contributing to her quality of life.

This 1/3

*HRB Has Refused
Keeping Confined in
One Room Housing, with
restrictions & dehumanizing
Abuse.*